

# THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

# GUARDIAN

JULY 27 - AUGUST 2, 2011

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37th Annual Edition

THE NATION'S ORIGINAL ☆ CALIFORNIA'S BEST LARGE WEEKLY  
**BEST OF THE BAY**

Renee Caffo 2011

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# Remain in Light

By Marke B.

marke@sfbg.com

Welcome to the Guardian's Best of the Bay 2011! This is our 37th annual celebration of the people, places, and things that make living here such a great experience — from Best Burrito and Best Local Band to Best Strip Club, Best Shoe Store, Best Drag Queen, and beyond.

More than 15,000 of our readers voted in our 2011 Best of the Bay Readers Poll for their favorites in more than 200 categories. You'll find the results inside — as well as 150 Editors Picks that highlight some Guardian favorites, old and new, that we think deserve special recognition for lighting up our lives this year. We've also included many enthusiastic quotes from our readers who responded to the question, "Best of the Best:

What's your favorite thing about living here?"

This year our theme is "Beautiful Rebels." Throughout its history, the Bay Area has attracted wave upon wave of people looking to create something unique. From Barbary Coast explorers to Belle Epoque, Jazz Age, and Beatnik free spirits, from hippies and queer and civil rights pioneers to tattooed 1990s swing kids and Burning Man visionaries, to today's global tech innovators and their DIY, local, organic, small-batch counterparts.

We seem to be living in a time when a certain conservatism and conformity reigns, when speaking out gets you pilloried in the comments section and big-box consumerism squeezes out charming idiosyncrasies. That's why we wanted to take this Best of the Bay opportunity to celebrate the Bay Area's proud perseverance in remaining the weirdest, oddest, most interesting

and rewarding place in the world, somewhere where "freak" is a compliment and "out there" equals "gorgeous."

In 1974, Esquire magazine asked us for ideas for its Best of the USA issue, which led to us publish the original Best of the Bay. Made by the people of the Bay Area for the people of the Bay Area, it's our annual opportunity to celebrate the people and places that make this city great. We were the first weekly paper to publish a regular "best of" issue. Thirty-seven years on — and 45 years after we opened our doors — we're still going strong.

Editing this year's installment was a hoot. I shower grateful smooches on all my collaborators, especially my right-hand amiga Caitlin Donohue, creative wiz Mirissa Neff, amazing illustrator Renee Castro, photographer Ben Hopfer, the Guardian staff, and the ever-supportive Hunky Beau, my own personal Best of the Bay.

But most of all I thank you, dear reader, for your generous participation, for making the Bay Area such an astounding place to live, and for turning us on to some great new things this year. SFBG

## BEST OF THE BAY STAFF

### BEST OF THE BAY EDITORS

Marke B., Caitlin Donohue

### CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Mirissa Neff

### ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR

Ben Hopfer

### ILLUSTRATOR

Renee Castro

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Amber Schadewald, Ariel Soto-Suver, Diane Sussman, Hannah Tepper, Christopher Trenchard

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Erik Anderson, Ben Hopfer, Virginia Miller, Pat Mazzena, Ariel Soto-Suver

### COPY EDITORS

Emily Appelbaum, Diane Sussman

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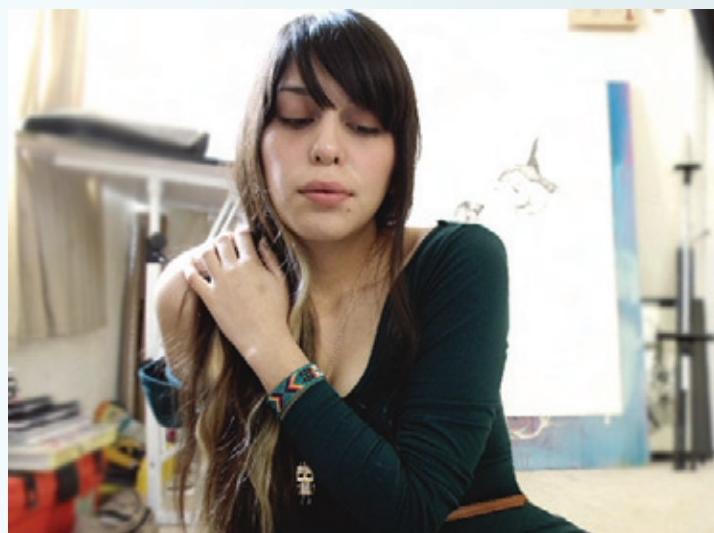
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## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Like the Guardian, Renee "Lady Reni" Castro is native to the Bay Area — really. Born in Oakland, Castro's heritage stems from the Ohlone Native American tribe. (You can't get more local than that.) Her background serves as inspiration for much of her art, especially her subjects' clothing and their deeply-rooted connections to the natural world. Her other influences for her illustrations in this year's "Beautiful Rebels"-themed Best of the Bay include Mexican and Spanish folklore, broken-hearted femmes fatales, disheveled muses, and erotic heroines. Castro's current projects include commissions for SF companies the Loin and Peasants and Travelers, shows in local galleries, plus an apprenticeship at Amor Eterno Tattoo in Oakland, where you're welcome to drop by and see her.



## *Index*

## *Beautiful Rebels*

Black Love in Public	14
Chinese Progressive Alliance	22
Souley Vegan	33
Young Workers United	39
Hard French	51
100 Days of Spring	57
Jimmyjane	65
Miranda Caroligne	68

## *City Living*

### Readers poll

Best Street Fair	11
Best Hotel	11
Best Tourist Attraction	11
Best Tour	11
Best Overall Local Blog	11
Best Overall Local Website	11
Best Startup Company	11
Best News Blog or Site	11
Best Style Blog or Site	11
Best Sex Blog or Site	11
Best Nonprofit Organization	11

## *Food and Drink*

### Readers poll

Best Overall Restaurant	27
Best New Restaurant	27
Best Budget Restaurant	27
Best Splurge Restaurant	27
Best Late Night Restaurant	27
Best Romantic Restaurant	27
Best Food Cart	27
Best Farmer's Market	27
Best Pizza	27
Best Sandwiches	27
Best Burritos	27
Best Small Plates	27
Best Burger and Fries	27
Best Barbecue	27
Best Sushi	27
Best Bowl of Noodles	27
Best Seafood Restaurant	27
Best Italian Restaurant	27
Best Middle Eastern Restaurant	27
Best Indian Restaurant	27
Best Mexican Restaurant	27
Best Chinese Restaurant	27
Best Thai Restaurant	27
Best Vegetarian Restaurant	27
Best Vegan Restaurant	27
Best Breakfast	27
Best Brunch	27
Best Lunch	27
Best Dessert	27
Best Service	27

CONTINUES ON PAGE 8 >>

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## Index CONT>>

Best Food/Drinks Blog or Site	27
Best Café	27
Best Cup of Coffee	27
Best Cup of Tea	27
Best Overall Bar	27
Best Dive Bar	27
Best Swanky Bar	27
Best Singles Bar	27
Best Happy Hour	27
Best Winery	27
Best Wine Bar	27
Best Brewery	27
Best Selection of Beers	27
Best Cocktails	27
Best Bloody Mary	27
Best Bar Staff	27
Best Pot Edibles	27
Best Bakery	27
Best Butcher Shop	27
Best Cheese Shop	27
Best Chocolatier	27

## Editors Picks

Best Beelzebubian Beignets	28
Best Return of the Mac	28
Best Pork Dessert	28
Best Southern Slice of Glass Pie	30
Best Clipsy Whiskey	30
Best Impersonation of an Art Gallery by a Restaurant	30
Best Craft Cheers	30
Best Sweet Treats for Tech Geeks	31
Best Crunchy Almond Balls	31
Best Change of Cheese	31
Best No-Hassle Hof	32
Best Home Roasts in the Avenues	32
Best Way to Get Smarter by Drinking	32
Best Beans on a Truck	32
Best Besting of the Big Bottles	32
Best Righteous Vegan Sass	33
Best Armagnac Attack	33
Best Bromance on Bread	34
Best Aquatic Smokes	34
Best French Kiss (On Both Cheeks)	34
Best Place to Yuca It Up	35
Best Robber Bar-Room	35
Best Family Italian (With Free Cheese)	37
Best Russian Rush	37
Best Chocolate Liquification	37
Best Grinder at Your Bar Stool	38
Best Biggest Bayview	38
Brazilian Burgers	38
Best Sublingual High	39
Best Wake 'n' Shake	39
Best Star Egg	40

Best Smiling Star of the Salvadoran Savories	40
Best Happ(i)ly (Self-Determined) Hour	40
Best Revenge Served Cold	41
Best Donutsos	41
Best Pancake with a Side of Chow Mein	41
Best Liquor Lowdown	41
Best Communal Eats, Tweeted	42
Best Sweet Hookers	42
Best Rum LEED-er	42
Best Korean Chicken Garage	43
Best Shabu-Shabu for Klutzies	43
Best Cake-Tastrophes	43

## Arts and Entertainment

### Readers Poll

Best Movie Theater	45
Best Rep Film House	45
Best Theater Company	45
Best Dance Company,	45
Best Performance Space	45
Best Museum	45
Best Art Gallery	45
Best Artist or Collective	45
Best Local Author	45
Best Local Zine	45
Best Local Publishing House	45
Best Arts Blog or Site	45
Best Music Blog or Site	45
Best Record Label	45
Best Local Band	45
Best Singer/Songwriter	45
Best DJ	45
Best Overall Party Venue	45
Best Overall Dance Party	45
Best Rock Club	45
Best Reggae Club	45
Best Hip-Hop Club	45
Best Jazz Club	45
Best Salsa Club	45
Best House/Techno Club	45
Best After-Hours Club	45
Best Trivia Night	45
Best Jukebox	45
Best Karaoke Bar	45
Best Overall Queer Party	45
Best Gay Bar or Club	45
Best Lesbian Bar or Club	45
Best Club for Trans People	45
Best Drag Show	45
Best Drag King or Queen	45
Best Burlesque Act or Show	45
Best Comedy Club	45

### Editors picks

Best Highbrow with Your Highball	46
Best Titillating T.M.I.	46
Best Progressive Clubhouse	46
Best Lord of Metal	46
Best Place to Meet Your Maker	48
Best Aerosol Roots	48
Best 'Picks of Passion	48
Best Un-Eggs-Pected Puppet Show	48
Best Romp with Your Inner Psychopath	48
Best Sing-Along for Wannabe Sea Dogs	49
Best Site-Specific Classicists	49
Best Frisco Fusion	49
Best Bargain Bebop Tutelage	50
Best Homeboy Scribe	50
Best Darkwave Embrace	50
Best Karaoke Proustian	51
Best "Home Is Where the Art Is"	51
Best Door Guy in a Loin Cloth	52
Best Spirit-Raising Twirl	52
Best Shoegazers on the Block	52
Best Word of Law	53
Best Ready-Made Rock Band	53
Best Sixth Street Sense	53
Best All Pedal Everything	53
Best Scary Clown Town	57
Best Make-Shift to DIY Culture	57
Best Single-File Style	58
Best (Swag) Twitter (Swag)	58
Rapper (Swag Swag)	58
Best How Soon Is Wow	58
Best Public Work (Dance Version)	58
Best Atlas of Ourselves	59

Best Shop for Parents-To-Be	61
Best Vintage Clothing Store	61
Best Local Designer	61
Best Flea Market	61
Best Thrift Store	61
Best Shoe Store	61
Best Furniture Store	61
Best Hardware Store	61
Best Toy Store	61
Best Bike Shop	61
Best Pet Shop	61
Best Gift Shop	61
Best Place to Buy Eyewear	61
Best Cannabis Club	61
Best Store Staff	61
Best Quirky Specialty Store	61
Best Sporting Goods Store	61
Best Flower Shop	61
Best Place to Buy Lingerie	61
Best Place to Buy Sex Toys	61
Best Place to Buy Fetish Gear	61

### Editors picks

Best Vinyl Flippers	62
Best Everyday Kan Do	62
Best Geekdom: The Gathering	62
Best Refill, Not Landfill	63
Best Fair Feathers	63
Best Memory Transference	63
Best Bugs Bunny B-Boy Flashbacks	63
Best Reason to Not Get Out of Bed	65
Best Small Worlds After All	66
Best Bet for Baroque Beauty	66
Best Fashion Shrine	66
Best Place to Buy 300 Pairs of Pants, 250 Telephones, or 7,651 Rubber Gaskets	68
Best Shop for the Socially Conscious Stitch	69
Best Way to Sign Up	69
Best Prototypes (Primate or Otherwise)	69
Best Sonic Safari	69
Best Cheap Place to Score a Cup and a Conrad	70
Best Partner in Preused Purchase	70
Best Anti-Goliath Game Face	72
Best Leather-Scented Time Warp	72
Best Couch-Bound —	
But Community-Minded —	
Stoner's Dream Come True	72
Best Goal-Getters	73
Best Place to Put A Cord On It	73
Best Ring of Success	73
Best Through the Rabbit Hole	74
Best Barrel Full of Monkey Suits	74
Best Grand Poobah of the Past	75
Best Shot of Panache	75
Best Holga Rolls	76
Best Nature Nookie Napsacks	76

## Shopping

### Readers poll

Best Overall Bookstore/	
Best Used Book Store	61
Best Comic Book Store	61
Best Magazine Selection	61
Best Record Store	61
Best Video Store	61
Best Grocery Store	61
Best Clothing Store (Women)	61
Best Clothing Store (Men)	61
Best Clothing Store (Kids)	61

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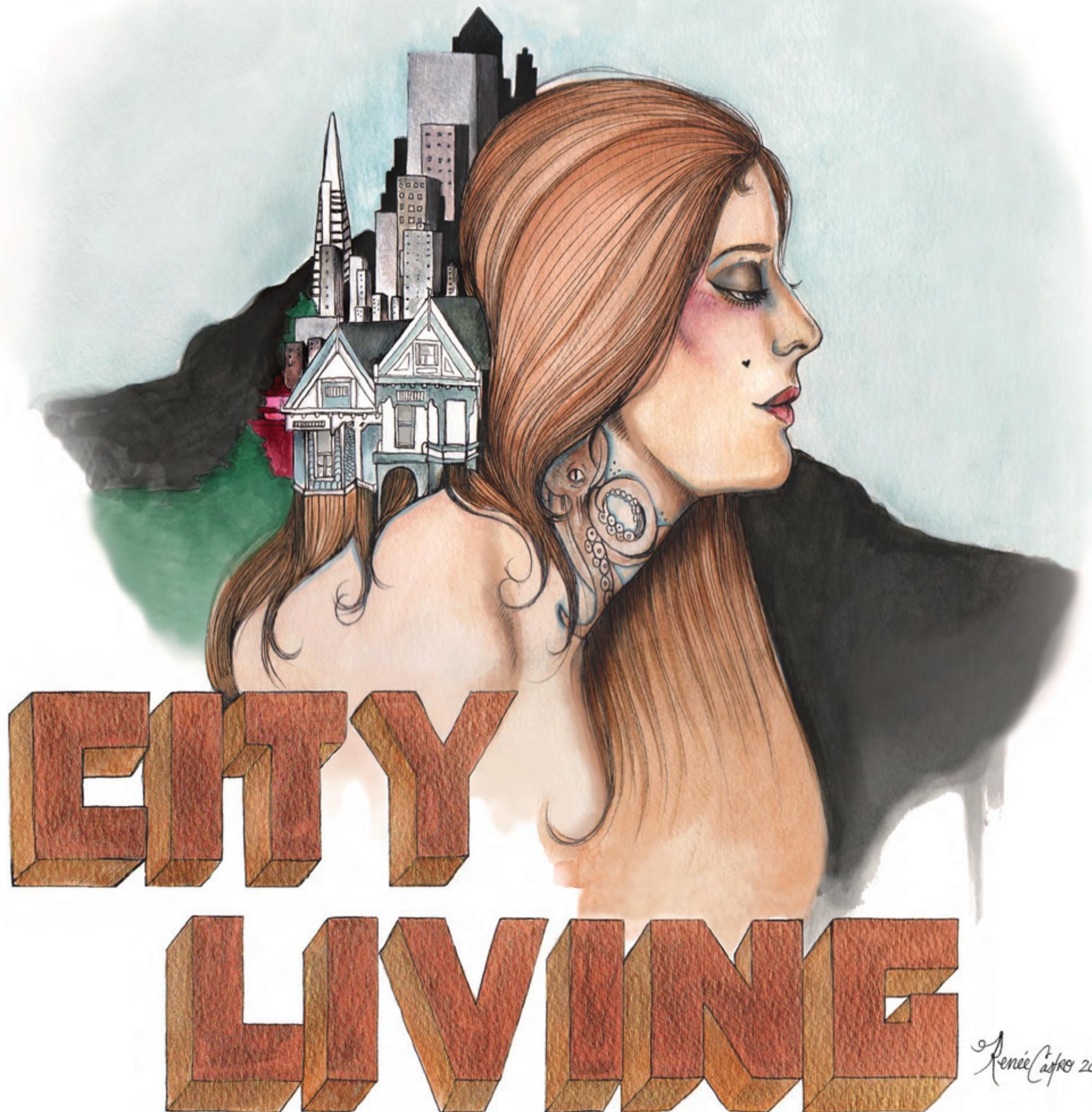
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CITY  
LIVING

Renee Castro 2011

## BEST OF THE BAY 2011: READERS POLL

# *City Living*

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Folsom Street Fair  
[www.folsomstreetfair.com](http://www.folsomstreetfair.com)

### BEST HOTEL

The Fairmont Hotel  
950 Mason, SF. (415) 772-5000,  
[www.fairmont.com](http://www.fairmont.com)

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and 588 Sutter, SF. (415) 665-0480  
[www.localtastesthecitytours.com](http://www.localtastesthecitytours.com)

### BEST OVERALL LOCAL BLOG

SFist  
[www.sfist.com](http://www.sfist.com)

### BEST OVERALL LOCAL WEBSITE

Funcheap SF  
[www.sf.funcheap.com](http://www.sf.funcheap.com)

### BEST STARTUP COMPANY

Square  
[www.squareup.com](http://www.squareup.com)

### BEST NEWS BLOG OR SITE

Bay Citizen  
[www.baycitizen.org](http://www.baycitizen.org)

### BEST STYLE BLOG OR SITE

No Pants 2011  
[www.nopants2011.com](http://www.nopants2011.com)

### BEST SEX BLOG OR SITE

Tiny Nibbles  
[www.tinytibbles.com](http://www.tinytibbles.com)

### BEST NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Rocket Dog Rescue  
[www.rocketdogrescue.org](http://www.rocketdogrescue.org)

### BEST ADULT EDUCATION

The Writing Salon  
[www.writingsalons.com](http://www.writingsalons.com)

### BEST TV NEWSCASTER

Dana King of CBS

### BEST LOCALLY PRODUCED TV SHOW

Check Please Bay Area  
[blogs.kqed.org/checkplease](http://blogs.kqed.org/checkplease)

### BEST RADIO STATION

97.3 Alice  
[radioalice.radio.com](http://radioalice.radio.com)

### BEST RADIO DJ

Sarah and Vinnie of 97.3 Alice

### BEST RADIO SHOW

Fernando and Greg of Movin 99.7

### BEST PLACE TO GET A TATTOO

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381 Guerrero, SF. (415) 626-0770,  
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[www.charlies-place.com](http://www.charlies-place.com)

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[www.brainwash.com](http://www.brainwash.com)

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[carmichaelsalon.com](http://carmichaelsalon.com)

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The Mindful Body  
2876 California, SF. (415) 931-2639,  
[www.themindfulbody.com](http://www.themindfulbody.com)

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57 West Portal, SF and  
170 Columbus, SF. (415) 699-8494,  
[www.blueturtlespa.com](http://www.blueturtlespa.com)

### BEST GYM

World Gym  
290 De Haro, SF. (415) 703-9650,  
[www.worldgym.com](http://www.worldgym.com)

### BEST PERSONAL TRAINER

Jennifer Pattee of Basic Training

### BEST YOGA STUDIO

Monkey Yoga Shala  
3215 Lakeshore, Oakl. (510) 595-1330, [www.monkeyyoga.com](http://www.monkeyyoga.com)

### BEST YOGA INSTRUCTOR

Deborah Burkman of Burkman Yoga

### BEST AMATEUR TEAM

Fog Rugby  
[www.sffog.org](http://www.sffog.org)

### BEST PUBLIC SPORTS FACILITY

Kezar Stadium  
755 Stanyan, SF

### BEST BEACH

Baker Beach

### BEST NATURE SPOT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Muir Woods

### BEST CAMPGROUND

Samuel P. Taylor State Park

### BEST CAMP FOR KIDS

Silver Tree Day Camp  
[sfrecpark.org](http://sfrecpark.org)

### BEST PARK FOR DOGS

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### BEST SKATE SPOT

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### BEST SURF SPOT

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BEST OF THE BAY 2011: EDITORS PICKS

## *City Living*



Best Kept Kitty Club: Cat Safari | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

### BEST SAX 'N' SUDS

Who doesn't like a little Miles with their rinse, a little Bird when they scrub, or some sweet, sweet flights of Mingus while they watch the tumble-dry? If your washing life seems culturally impoverished, then put a little Louis in your laundry at the Fillmore District's **Jazz Wash**. Piped in scat, bebop, swing, and jazz standards help lift spirits while the state-of-the-art washers help lift stains. This little Laundromat has free Wi-Fi and a friendly, responsive owner who

likes to mingle. The "midweek special" is a true deal: on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, it's only \$1.50 for a 30-pound wash. Perks other than joint's squeaky cleanliness and squeaky saxiness? We've run into a few hottie jazz aficionados here who've made us quite Dizzy Gillespie.  
1119 Fillmore, SF. (415) 238-5791

### BEST STUBBORNLY ROOTED NEIGHBORHOOD NURSERY

The subject of an ongoing, highly politicized brouhaha (San Francisco's Recreation and Parks

Department is seeking to evict it also happens to be an excellent place to shop for compost. The **Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC) Recycling Center plant nursery** is a treasure trove for gardeners who want to transform backyard plots to reflect the Bay Area's natural ecology. HANC's botanical collection features dozens of varieties native to San Francisco — all the better to attract winged visitors and helpful pollinators. Expertly tended by the green-thumbed Greg Gaar,

CONTINUES ON PAGE 14 >>

**Best Choice Evaluations**  
MEDICAL MARIJUANA EVALUATIONS




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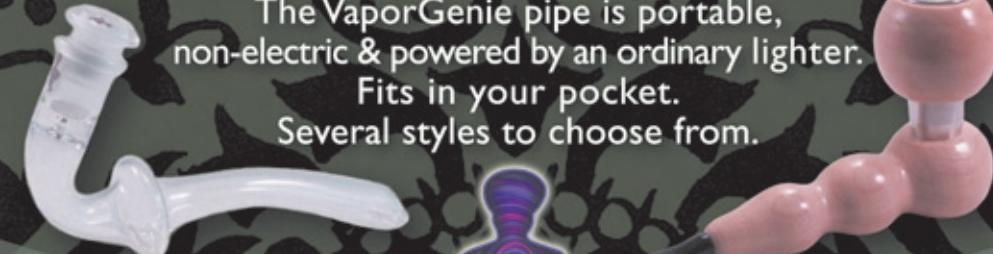
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## City Living CONT>>

seedlings sprouted under HANC's care have also benefited urban ecology projects like the Mission Greenbelt.

780 Frederick, SF. (415) 753-0932,  
[www.hanc-sf.org](http://www.hanc-sf.org)

### BEST CELL PHONE SAGE

Get back, consumerist hoo-ha! Popular wisdom tells us that iPhones, like love and Goldfish crackers, are ephemeral. Crack your screen? Time for a new

iPhone. Drop it in the toilet? Wassup, Apple store. But **Shakeel the iPhone Guy** sees through the capitalist flapjaw. The enterprising, customer service-oriented, cash-only Apple wizard operates out of a South San Francisco storage unit, stocks replacement parts, and can fix things we didn't know were fixable, even waterlogged cell phones. He gives you a one-year guarantee on parts and labor — and all for prices way below what you'd find anywhere near official Mac Death Star retailers. No wonder the man's a Yelp celebrity.

160 S. Spruce, Suite C001, South San Francisco. (650) 861-2810

### BEST MORNING-AFTER MEDICINE

You've just experienced one of those glorious one-night stands you read about in fairy tales like the "Sex and the City" columns of yore. But the morning after ... well, let's just say things aren't exactly coming up roses. Where do you turn for safe, comfortable, confidential STD testing and treatment? **San Francisco City Clinic**, of course. This year

## BEST OF THE BAY 2011

# Beautiful Rebels

PHOTO BY PAT MAZZERA



### BEST PERFORMATIVE P.D.A.

Rising rents, shrinking room for creative types — and now the real estate agents are sinking their hooks into Bayview? The Bay Area has a complicated relationship with its centers of African American culture, to put it mildly. Enter **Black Love in Public**, a yearly event staged by the Intimacy Project — itself a project through see.think.dance, a touchy-feely art-community

organization that seeks to reintroduce emotional realness and performance. BLIP takes the simple act of two black people embracing and elevates it to art: every spring since 2009 hundreds of African diaspora lovers have gathered in public plazas in an emotional flash mob, hugging on each other 'til the world gives love back.  
[www.seethinkdance.com](http://www.seethinkdance.com)



the clinic is celebrating 100 years of zapping not just simple post-tryst maladies, but more alarming epidemics as well. From the "red plague" of the Barbary Coast (syphilis) to the devastation of "gay cancer" (AIDS) and beyond, the capable city clinicians — trained through the San Francisco Department of Public Health — have fought back against STDs in an honest, shame-free environment. Free and low-cost diagnosis and treatments are a priority; promoting healthy sex while protecting against transmission and outbreaks is the mission.

356 Seventh St., SF. (415) 487-5500,  
[www.sfcityclinic.org](http://www.sfcityclinic.org),  
[www.100yearsofsex.org](http://www.100yearsofsex.org)

#### BEST KEPT KITTY CLUB

A horizontal open bag of kibble is not the only thing needed to ensure cat survival on your mid-August getaway. But **Pet Camp's Cat Safari** dangles off the other end of the kitty-care

spectrum. Appropriately tucked along the mansions and boutiques of Presidio Heights, its facilities include an indoor jungle gym where your precious can rub furry elbows with other pampered felines, huge garden windows, aquariums to gaze at, myriad perches, and even twirling club lights (to facilitate a killer catnip trip?). For the rare feline that actually gives a shit about people, Cat Safari even offers "very individualized playtime sessions." Your lap never looked so boring.

3233 Sacramento, SF. (415) 282-0700,  
[www.petcamp.com](http://www.petcamp.com)

#### BEST FLURRY FORECASTS

Though winter chills have given way to summer chills, SF residents won't forget the "it's gonna snow!" moment of February 2011. During this glorious time, we had not one, but two, reliable weather websites we could turn to: [isit-snowinginsanfrancisco.com](http://isit-snowinginsanfrancisco.com) and

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16 >>



Best New Chain Gang: The San Francisco Bike Party | PHOTO BY ERIK ANDERSON

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San Francisco Auto Repair Center is sad to say goodbye to an old friend, Celica Salon.

At the same time, we'd like to welcome a new friend, Juan Carbrera. Juan was previously head mechanic at Celica Salon, and comes to San Francisco Auto Repair Center after serving Celica Salon for nearly 16 years.

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## City Living

CONT>>

**isitsnowinginsfyet.com.** Taking a cue from [isitchristmas.com](http://isitchristmas.com), the sites' simple 1990s-era setups and delightfully snarky pre- and post-snow quips combined to make SF's most recent winter weather hysteria a lot more fun for the majority of the city who didn't see flakes. (Enough of the subfreezing temperature gloating, Sunset and Twin Peaks — you're covered in fog the other 364 days of the year.) [www.isitsnowinginsanfrancisco.com](http://www.isitsnowinginsanfrancisco.com), [www.isitsnowinginsfyet.com](http://www.isitsnowinginsfyet.com)

### BEST REAL DEAL BARBER

**Florindo "Flo" Cimino** opened his barber shop atop Potrero Hill in 1953, when he was 20. He has been snipping at the same address

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The donation-yoga class on the labyrinth at Grace Cathedral on Tuesday nights: beautiful setting, soulful music, excellent teachers, diverse attendees.

A., Nob Hill

ever since — he's even lived about three blocks away, in the same Arkansas Street house, since his parents brought him back from St. Luke's Hospital as a baby. Now 80, he's spent six decades as a barber, hair stylist, news destination, and Potrero Hill institution. Many clients have been with him for decades and come from all around the Bay and beyond — for good reason. His barbershop has the look of a place that Sam Spade would visit regularly for a trim and the neighborhood scoop.

Flo's Hair Styling, 1532 20th St., SF. (415) 642-0887

### BEST EXTRACTION SANS DISTRACTION

It really, truly is all about *you* when it comes to esthetician Jaydee Cohen of Alameda salon

### BEST SWEAT FOR YOUR STANZAS

Fitting, we must profess, that the namesake of **George Sterling Memorial Park** was a poet. The views from this Russian Hill rec hub make us want to write stanzas between sets of tennis and ballads after basketball runs. Near-360-degree views of this epic setting can be found up at the corner of Hyde and Lombard streets (yes, right where Lombard begins to snake downward). Come for the views but stay for the play — four tennis courts and a full basketball court await the aerobically inclined. Waits can get long for the tennis courts, so be sure to abide by (and enforce!) the one-set-per-court rule. Lombard and Hyde, SF



## BEST FOREST GUARDIANS

In February, Chevron was found guilty of causing massive oil contamination in the Amazon and ordered to pay \$9 billion — a landmark victory that took 17 years of litigation, brought by thousands of indigenous Ecuadorians affected by cancer and birth defects. **Amazon Watch** helped them win. The nonprofit supported their struggle through media work, speaking tours, and letter-writing campaigns — and it's not stopping until Chevron cuts the check. During the oil giant's recent shareholders conference, Amazon Watch partnered with the Rainforest Action Network to send three courageous souls rappelling off the Richmond Bridge with a banner bearing the message "Chevron Guilty: Clean Up the Amazon!"

221 Pine, Suite 400, SF.

(415) 487-9600, [amazonwatch.org](http://amazonwatch.org)

## BEST SLICE OF POSTAPOCALYPTIC PARADISE

Maybe it's the late summer evenings we've spent here drinking cheap wine on a slab of concrete while looking out over the San Francisco Bay. Maybe it's the graffiti-adorned rocks or the handmade concrete hut, evocative of Dr. Seuss creation. Maybe it's the bizarre formations of twisted rebar and spinning bike parts that can be found dotting the landscape amid tall, scraggly weeds. Maybe because it's the prettiest former landfill we've ever explored. Whatever the source of its charm, there will always be a special place in our hearts for the **Albany Bulb**, which makes a great dog park but is also great for anyone who needs to get off their leash and run around. To get to the park, head bay-ward from Golden Gate Fields in Albany.

CONTINUES ON PAGE I8 >>



**Best Queer Exhibitionism:** GLBT History Museum | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

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## City Living

CONT>>

### BEST CLUCK CONNECTION

You can find dogs and cats anywhere. But say you want to adopt a chinchilla — or perhaps a snake. How about a rat? A rabbit? A couple of birds — or yes, a feathered chicken friend? You'll have to head down to the **San Francisco Animal Shelter**. The city shelter is the only place in town that adopts out just about every type of (small) animal that anyone could imagine keeping as a pet. Sadly, most of the creatures arrive there because they were no longer wanted in someone's home — but that doesn't mean they aren't cute, cuddly, bouncy, fun, and ready to take up a (tiny) space in your apartment or backyard. Hell, they might even pay their own way — omelet, anyone?

1200 15th St., SF. (415) 554-6364,  
[www.animalshelter.sfgov.org](http://www.animalshelter.sfgov.org)

I'd give a Best of to the squat, sleepy bulldog parked in front of Bladerunners hair salon whose tongue doesn't quite fit in his mouth.

He makes my day, every day.

Kristee, Upper Haight

### BEST NEIGHBORHOOD NOM NOMS

Every Mission District Sunday, a line forms for the **Free Farm Stand's** toothsome tenderheartedness. Founder Tree Rub has run the show since 2008, giving away thousands of pounds of mostly organic local produce from his garden to all who come. He believes everyone should have access to nutritious food, and that most of it can be grown right in our backyards. Apparently he's not the only one: the stand is run by vol-

unteers who often contribute their own homegrown surplus — from hummus to loquats to collard green seedlings to the free weekly bounty. The seed has been planted: last year FFS and other nonprofits opened an urban farm on Gough and Eddy streets that has added fuel to the food-giving fire. Sundays 1–3 p.m. Parque Niños Unidos, 23rd and Treat streets, SF. [www.freefarmstand.org](http://www.freefarmstand.org)

### BEST WITHIN-SIGHT OVERNIGHT

From the vantage point of **Kirby**

**Cove** — a small, sandy shore on the southern edge of the Marin Headlands — day-trippers and campers can gaze at the topaz glow of the Golden Gate Bridge-framed city or look westward toward the infinite Pacific blue — maybe even China. Wave to the container ships — hello, Shan Hai, Evergreen, and Maersk Danang shipping lines! — from what feels like your own private beach. Just two warnings: plan ahead if you wanna pitch a tent — there are only four sites and reservations can fill up to three months in advance. And bring earplugs — sea dreams will likely be interrupted by the endearing but incessant sound of foghorns. Battery Spencer, Conzelman Road, Sausalito. (415) 331-1540, [www.parksconservancy.org](http://www.parksconservancy.org)

### BEST GRADUATION GUIDANCE

Without a parent who has been through the applications, intense

study schedules, and patently awful cafeteria food, getting through college can seem like a tough circus to ringlead for many high school students. Studies show that scholarly parents are a big factor in kids' academic success. That's why we give props to **First Graduate**, a nonprofit founded in 2000 that guides first-generation, university-bound students through a decade of life. From seventh grade all the way through college graduation, the low-income kids receive monetary support, tutoring, counseling, and career exploration opportunities. So far, 100 percent of participants have conquered high school and made it to year two of university — surely something that's worth tossing those tassels in the air. 37 Graham, SF. (415) 561-3450, [www.firstgraduate.org](http://www.firstgraduate.org)

### BEST CEREBRAL STROLL

Joel Pomerantz has a lot of nerve asking people to think and walk



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at the same time. He also has a lot of nerd. In fact, he bills his **ThinkWalks** — designed especially for locals — as “nerdy tours for San Franciscans.” Possibly the man who coined “the Wiggle” to describe the city’s best cross-town bike corridor, Pomerantz offers sliding-scale strolls that explore what makes San Francisco such an unusual city. He thinks it’s because these parts boast a headlong collision of the urban and the natural — like the buried waterway under the Wiggle and the Mission District’s latent ecology. So buy the ticket and take the stride: fresh geography, stronger legs, and opened eyes ahead. (415) 505-8255, [www.thinkwalks.org](http://www.thinkwalks.org)

#### BEST GARDEN VARIETY HISTORICAL HOTBED

With rock walls made from the stones of a medieval monastery, gravel beds, and balmy southern exposure, the **San Francisco Botanical Garden** succulent gar-

den is one of our favorite places to bask in the heat like a lizard. But even here, the storms of controversy gather. The rightful ownership of the wall rocks has been disputed for decades — they’ve changed hands from Spanish monks to the megalomaniacal William Randolph Hearst to the City of San Francisco to an abbey near Sacramento to their current scattered locations throughout Golden Gate Park. Whew! Talk about your rolling stones. Ninth Ave. and Lincoln, Golden Gate Park, SF. (415) 661-1316, [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)

#### BEST SENTIENT WEED WHACKERS

From an environmental standpoint, herbicides and lawnmowers are unsatisfactory ways to control invasive plant species. Enter **City Grazing**’s goats. The Bayview rental company offers a pack of furry, friendly billies to spruce

CONTINUES ON PAGE 20 >>



Best Cell Phone Sage: Shakeel the iPhone Guy | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

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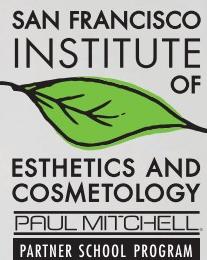
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*City Living* CONT>>

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CONTINUES ON PAGE 22 >>

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## City Living CONT>>

Americans, women, LGBT folk, youth, and low-income listeners. Click over to 89.5 FM, pump up the volume, and listen. That's the sound of freedom from corporate media, folks. 1329 Divisadero, SF. (415) 346-5373, [www.kpoo.com](http://www.kpoo.com)

### BEST NEW CHAIN GANG

San Francisco: we party on Judgment Day, we party on drugs,

we party on crooked streets and Big Wheels — and now we party on bikes. Hard. **The San Francisco**

**Bike Party** slapped the scene silly at the beginning of 2011 with its monthly low-conflict costume-partied rides, invented in San Jose. (When does anything in SJ ever get props in SF? For this alone, SFBP deserves praise.) Call it the natural evolution of Critical Mass, call it an awesome Friday night with hundreds of velo-minded new friends, call it an excuse to make a hot toddy in a thermos.

But SFBP riders call it one thing, do so and at the top of their lungs to boot: "Bike Par-TY!"

First Fridays of the month, 7:30 p.m., free. Check website for start location, [sfbikeparty.wordpress.com](http://sfbikeparty.wordpress.com)

### BEST SAFETY NET FOR THE 'NET

When technology evolves faster than law, unanticipated questions on Internet users' rights spring up like weeds. Think of the **Electronic Frontier Foundation** as a machete for slashing through

## BEST OF THE BAY 2011

# Beautiful Rebels

PHOTO BY PAT MAZZERA



### BEST WAGE WARRIORS

Enough with the insular, mysterious Chinatown stereotype. **The Chinese Progressive Association** has been locating itself within the greater framework of the fight for social justice since 1971, when it broke into the SF political scene challenging assertions that Chinese Americans and immigrants were relegated to lives of low-paying jobs in hazardous conditions. These days, one of the CPA's major campaigns is against wage theft.

In the economic meltdown of 2001, it created the Worker's Organizing Center, which has helped large-scale manufacturing employees recoup \$2.5 million in withheld paychecks. Couple that with the group's work with Mujeres Unidas and Young Workers United on fairness for service industry employees and you have yourself a new meaning of "Chinatown power broker." 1042 Grant, SF. (415) 391-6987, [cpa.mayfirst.org](http://cpa.mayfirst.org)



these digital thorns. Cops want to suck all the data out of your iPhone? Consult the EFF's online consumer guide *Know Your Rights*. Wondering how that social media site you're addicted to ranks on privacy policies? Check the EFF's Who Has Your Back? campaign. The nonprofit employs a mix of advocacy, education, and litigation to protect consumer privacy and defend Internet free speech. Its lawsuits have countered everything from warrantless wiretapping to the feds' unrestrained zeal in targeting Twitter-ers tied to WikiLeaks. A godsend for geeks, EFF helps you surf safe. 454 Shotwell, SF. (415) 436-9333, [www.eff.org](http://www.eff.org)

#### BEST PARENT PEN

The only way they'd be getting a more authentic Mission experience is if they slept on your roommate's couch and ate a leftover burrito for breakfast. But

CONTINUES ON PAGE 24 >>



Best SF Ambassadors: San Francisco Giants fans | PHOTO BY CHARLES RUSSO



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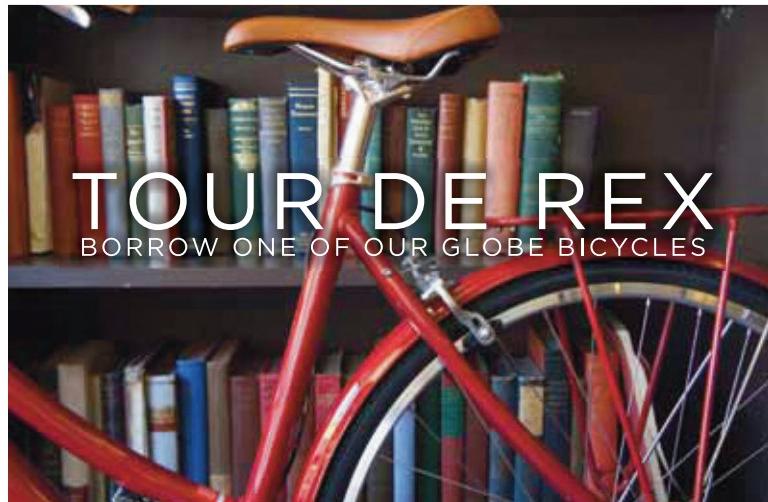


**NOME EDONNA** is a self-taught artist from California, working primarily in the fields of painting and drawing. In recent years, his work has become increasingly focused on social, political and environmental concerns as well as inquiries of science, technology and study of ancient civilizations. NoMe lives and works in San Francisco.



**LEE HARVEY ROSWELL** is a self-taught artist from Freefall, New York, whose work is noted for its blend of angst and humor. Themes of death and entropy, tribulation and futility run amok in his distinctly surreal, often-slapsick/ often-nightmarish world. The result is at once mocking and melancholic. Lee now lives in San Francisco. [leeharveyroswell.com](http://leeharveyroswell.com)

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## City Living

CONT>>

parents are rarely down for things like that, so shack 'em up at the **Inn San Francisco**. The Victorian bed and breakfast is a quick walk from mural alley stalking and 826 Valencia-ing. Inside, rooms with a jewel-toned grandma motif look out over a peaceful backyard garden. Your folks'll love the rooftop patio for catching those Mission rays after a hard day of tourism, and a huge complimentary breakfast spread will make it difficult to convince them to brave the line at Boogaloo's. Rates start at \$120 for two.

943 South Van Ness, SF.  
(415) 641-0188, [www.innsf.com](http://www.innsf.com)

## BEST HYPERACTIVE HERO

A one-time sports supplement entrepreneur who took the book bestseller lists for a ride with *Four Hour Work Week* — quit answering so many e-mails! — and then again with *Four Hour Body* — eat red meat, hello unbridled virility! — **Tim Ferriss** is clearly unfamiliar with the concept of specialization. In addition to being a career and fitness guru, he set world records in tango and regularly doles out info on his Experiments in Lifestyle Design blog on Mac viruses, luxury vacations on the cheap, and applying the philosophical lessons of Seneca to everyday life. The wisdom is always presented in the form of first person findings, a manic mishmash of Ferris' life less ordinary. [www.fourhourworkweek.com](http://www.fourhourworkweek.com)

My favorite thing in San Francisco is the Wiggle. Riding my bike through it is the best part of my day. Go Wiggle.

Spokes, Duboce Triangle

## BEST PLACE FOR KIDS TO BE — OR NOT TO BE

Five-year-olds double, double, toil, and trouble. People too young to read Elizabethan English belt out the poetic lines of *The Comedy of Errors*. And generations of Bay Area kids get exposed to Shakespeare, literature, and performance in a way that makes even the most shy and inexperienced player feel comfortable. These are the **San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's summer camps**. Their teachers are professional actors with extensive instructing experience, unafraid to split up lead roles so that more kids can get a shot at stardom — ages 4 to 18, all are encouraged to discover the Bard in their own unique, 2011 San Francisco way.

Various Bay Area locations. (415) 558-0888, [www.sfsheakes.org/camp](http://www.sfsheakes.org/camp)

## BEST QUEER EXHIBITIONISM

It seems crazier than a Twinkie defense that San Francisco — one of the hottest of hotspots in terms of queer liberation and visibility — hasn't had a history museum to preserve and explore all the wonder of LGBT life. Until now. In January, the 25-year-old GLBT Historical Society found a permanent space to display and interpret its vast archives of paper, photos, films, and audio recordings: the **GLBT History Museum**. The first of its kind in the U.S., the sleek storefront gallery may be small, but it packs a huge emotional and educational punch. From FBI files to feminist sex toys, radical activist pamphlets to old-school gay bar flyers, the museum's lavender arsenal has ripped the lid off the often obscured queer past, and attracted tens of thousands



of curious visitors (Britney Spears among them).  
4127 18th St., SF. (415) 621-1107,  
[www.glbthistory.org/museum](http://www.glbthistory.org/museum)

#### BEST BACKYARD BLISS-OUT

We were sartorially spoiling ourselves among P-Kok's clothing racks of fripperies when we heard that the garden-sauna space behind the store had been converted into a self-care community. **Tall Tree Tambo** is a gym of sorts — members pay either a monthly or more affordable yearly fee depending on how much they want to utilize the space, and drop-in rates are available — but there are no StairMasters here. Instead, the tranquil backyard zone is used for meditation, reiki, yoga, sitting in the sauna, and reconnecting to self. Everyone's encouraged to bring their own expertise to amplify the space's curative effects, and intimate classes in healing are held regularly.

776 Haight, SF. (415) 430-8285, [www.talltreetambo.org](http://www.talltreetambo.org)

#### BEST SECOND-CHANCE SENIORS

If we treated old people the way we treat old dogs, Dr. Jack Kevorkian would have made a fortune. Every day people pack their old pals off to the shelter in their golden poochie years. Many of those dogs — who are healthy but just a step slower and more in need of patience — are euthanized. **Muttville**, a San Francisco rescue group started by legendary dog-saver Sherri Franklin, aims to change that. The organization takes older dogs from shelters and connects them with adoption-ready families. One look at the website and you'll fall in love with all the well-worn woofers looking for nice homes — especially considering their potty training, mellow demeanors (Franklin makes sure the ones who've led rough lives are fully socialized before they're adopted out), and underdog chances.

(415) 272-4172, [www.muttville.org](http://www.muttville.org)

#### BEST SF AMBASSADORS

After 57 years of loyally cheering and impatiently waiting, **San Francisco Giants fans** finally got their wish when our team became the 2010 Major League Baseball champs. And boy, did we represent the orange and black, from the superfans to the drag queens to the drag queen superfans. If the enigmatically dark beard of closer Brian Wilson or the maroon-colored thong of outfielder Aubrey Huff didn't hook the nation on San Francisco funk, the fans would have picked up the slack. Gigantes devotees caught everyone's attention — including that of a Texas reporter who couldn't help but be amazed by the fans outside AT&T Park getting high on life, among other things. What do you say team, how about two in a row?

[www.sfgiants.com](http://www.sfgiants.com) SFBG



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Renee Castro 2011

## BEST OF THE BAY 2011: READERS POLL

# Food and Drink

### BEST OVERALL RESTAURANT

**Nopa**  
560 Divisadero, SF. (415) 864-8643,  
[www.nopasf.com](http://www.nopasf.com)

### BEST NEW RESTAURANT

**Wayfare Tavern**  
558 Sacramento, SF. (415) 772-9060,  
[www.wayfaretavern.com](http://www.wayfaretavern.com)

### BEST BUDGET RESTAURANT

**Jake's Steaks**  
3301 Buchanan, SF. (415) 922-2211,  
[www.jakessteaks.net](http://www.jakessteaks.net)

### BEST SPLURGE RESTAURANT

**Millennium**  
580 Geary, SF. (415) 345-3900,  
[www.millenniumrestaurant.com](http://www.millenniumrestaurant.com)

### BEST LATE NIGHT RESTAURANT

**Sparky's Diner**  
242 Church, SF. (415) 692-7673,  
[sparkysdinersf.com](http://sparkysdinersf.com)

### BEST ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

**The Cliff House**  
1090 Point Lobos, SF. (415) 386-3330,  
[www.cliffhouse.com](http://www.cliffhouse.com)

### BEST FOOD CART

**Curry Up Now**  
[www.curryupnow.com](http://www.curryupnow.com)

### BEST FARMER'S MARKET

**Ferry Plaza**  
Ferry Building Marketplace, SF. (415) 291-3276, [www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com/farmers\\_market](http://www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com/farmers_market)

### BEST PIZZA

**Little Star**  
Various locations, [littlestarpizza.com](http://littlestarpizza.com)

### BEST SANDWICHES

**Ike's Place**  
3489 16th St., SF. (415) 553-6888,  
[ilikeikesplace.com](http://ilikeikesplace.com)

### BEST BURRITOS

**Papalote**  
3409 24th St., SF. (415) 970-8815 and  
1777 Fulton, SF. (415) 776-0106, [www.papalote-sf.com](http://papalote-sf.com)

### BEST SMALL PLATES

**Cha Cha Cha**  
1801 Haight, SF. (415) 386-7670 and  
2327 Mission, SF. (415) 824-1502,  
[www.cha3.com](http://www.cha3.com)

### BEST BURGER AND FRIES

**Burgermeister**  
Various locations,  
[www.burgermeistersf.com](http://www.burgermeistersf.com)

### BEST BARBECUE

**Memphis Minnie's**  
576 Haight, SF. (415) 864-7675,  
[www.memphisminnies.com](http://www.memphisminnies.com)

### BEST SUSHI

**Ichi Sushi**  
3369 Mission, SF. (415) 535-4750,  
[www.ichisushi.com](http://www.ichisushi.com)

### BEST BOWL OF NOODLES

**Turtle Tower**  
631 Larkin, SF. (415) 409-3333 and  
5716 Geary, SF. (415) 221-9890,  
[www.turtletowerssf.com](http://www.turtletowerssf.com)

### BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

**Woodhouse Fish Co.**  
2073 Market, SF. and 1914 Fillmore, SF.  
(415) 437-2722, [woodhousefish.com](http://woodhousefish.com)

### BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

**Delfina**  
3621 18th St., SF. (415) 552-4055,  
[www.delfinasf.com](http://www.delfinasf.com)

### BEST MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

**Café La Méditerranée**  
Various locations, [www.cafelamed.com](http://www.cafelamed.com)

### BEST INDIAN RESTAURANT

**Dosa**  
995 Valencia, SF. (415) 642-3672 and  
1700 Fillmore (415) 441-3672, [dosasf.com](http://dosasf.com)

### BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

**Puerto Alegre**  
546 Valencia, SF. (415) 255-8201

### BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT

**Mission Chinese**  
2234 Mission, SF. (415) 863-2800,  
[www.missionchinesefood.com](http://www.missionchinesefood.com)

### BEST THAI RESTAURANT

**Osha Thai**  
Various locations, [www.oshathai.com](http://www.oshathai.com)

### BEST VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

**Greens**  
Fort Mason, Building A, SF. (415) 771-6222, [www.greensrestaurant.com](http://www.greensrestaurant.com)

### BEST VEGAN RESTAURANT

**Gracias Madre**  
2211 Mission, SF. (415) 683-1346,  
[www.gracias-madre.com](http://www.gracias-madre.com)

### BEST BREAKFAST

**Chloe's Café**  
1399 Church, SF. (415) 648-4116

### BEST BRUNCH

**Zazie**  
941 Cole, SF. (415) 564-5332,  
[www.zaziesf.com](http://www.zaziesf.com)

### BEST LUNCH

**San Francisco Soup Co.**  
Various locations, [www.sfsoupco.com](http://www.sfsoupco.com)

### BEST DESSERT

**Bi-Rite Creamery**  
3692 18th St., SF. (415) 626-5600,  
[www.biritecreamery.com](http://www.biritecreamery.com)

### BEST SERVICE

**Gary Danko**  
800 North Point, SF. (415) 749-2060,  
[www.garydanko.com](http://www.garydanko.com)

### BEST FOOD/DRINKS BLOG OR SITE

**Tablehopper**  
[www.tablehopper.com](http://www.tablehopper.com)

### BEST CAFÉ

**Café Flore**  
2298 Market, SF. (415) 621-8579,  
[www.cafeflore.com](http://www.cafeflore.com)

### BEST CUP OF COFFEE

**Blue Bottle**  
Various locations, [www.bluebottlecoffee.net](http://www.bluebottlecoffee.net)

### BEST CUP OF TEA

**Satori Tea Company**  
37 N. San Pedro St., San Jose. (408) 292-1502, [www.thesatori-teacompany.com](http://www.thesatori-teacompany.com)

### BEST OVERALL BAR

**Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge**  
1304 Lincoln, Alameda. (510) 749-0332,  
[www.forbiddenislandalameda.com](http://www.forbiddenislandalameda.com)

### BEST DIVE BAR

**El Rio**  
3158 Mission, SF. (415) 282-3325,  
[www.elriosf.com](http://www.elriosf.com)

### BEST SWANKY BAR

**Bourbon and Branch**  
501 Jones, SF. (415) 931-7292,  
[www.bourbonandbranch.com](http://www.bourbonandbranch.com)

### BEST SINGLES BAR

**Blackbird**  
2124 Market, SF. (415) 503-0630,  
[www.blackbirdbar.com](http://www.blackbirdbar.com)

### BEST HAPPY HOUR

**Midnight Sun**  
4067 18th St., SF. (415) 861-4186,  
[www.midnightsunsf.com](http://www.midnightsunsf.com)

### BEST WINERY

**V Sattui**  
1111 White Lane, St. Helena.  
(707) 963-7774, [www.vattui.com](http://www.vattui.com)

### BEST WINE BAR

**Noeteca**  
1551 Dolores, SF. (415) 824-5524,  
[www.noeteca.com](http://www.noeteca.com)

### BEST BREWERY

**Anchor Steam Brewery**  
1705 Mariposa, SF. (415) 863-8350,  
[www.anchorbrewing.com](http://www.anchorbrewing.com)

### BEST SELECTION OF BEERS

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547 Haight, SF. (415) 863-2276,  
[www.toronado.com](http://www.toronado.com)

### BEST COCKTAILS

**Smuggler's Cove**  
650 Gough, SF. (415) 869-1900,  
[smugglerscovesf.com](http://smugglerscovesf.com)

### BEST BLOODY MARY

**Zeitgeist**  
199 Valencia, SF. (415) 255-7505,  
[www.zeitgeistsf.com](http://www.zeitgeistsf.com)

### BEST BAR STAFF

**DNA Lounge**  
375 11th St., SF. (415) 626-1409,  
[www.dnalounge.com](http://www.dnalounge.com)

### BEST POT EDIBLES

**The Vapor Room**  
607A Haight, SF. (415) 633-6072,  
[www.vaporroom.com](http://www.vaporroom.com)

### BEST BAKERY

**Tartine**  
600 Guerrero, SF. (415) 487-2600,  
[www.tartinebakery.com](http://www.tartinebakery.com)

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**Drewes Bros.**  
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BEST OF THE BAY 2011: EDITORS PICKS

# Food and Drink



# VEG OUT

A resource guide for your vegetarian restaurant and shopping needs!

## Foods that protect the skin from sun.

Want to prevent wrinkling from UV sunlight exposure? The foods found to be best at preventing wrinkles are apples, prunes, and green tea. All are healthy foods. Buy them at Rainbow Grocery. High intakes of leafy greens, broad beans and legumes, healthy oils such as olive oils, and cheeses are beneficial for skin. Reduce meat, dairy, margarine, and sugar. And, don't forget the sun block.

## Vegan Restaurants



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goldenlotusvege.com

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Best Place To Yuca It Up: Parada 22 | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

### BEST BEELZEBUBIAN BEIGNETS

A beignet craze has swept the Bay, and really, who could withstand the fiendish temptation of these deep-fried, sugar-sprinkled, French-by-way-of-New-Orleans brunch delights? Our current favorites come courtesy of the new **Devil's Teeth Baking Company** in the Sunset which, despite its intimidating name, traffics in heavenly pastries. (The bakery's name is actually a tribute to a sobriquet for the Farallone Islands.) The diabolically good bakers here have even set aside a day for beignet worship: zip down to beignet Sundays and fill those idle hands with made-to-order clouds of perfection — and cups of Blue Bottle coffee to boot. While you're there, score a batch

of spice-chunked ginger cookies or a gooey-sweet pie. Followed by a stroll down Ocean Beach? Yes please, Mr. Mephistopheles. 3876 Noriega, SF. (415) 683-5533. www.devilstoothbakingcompany.com

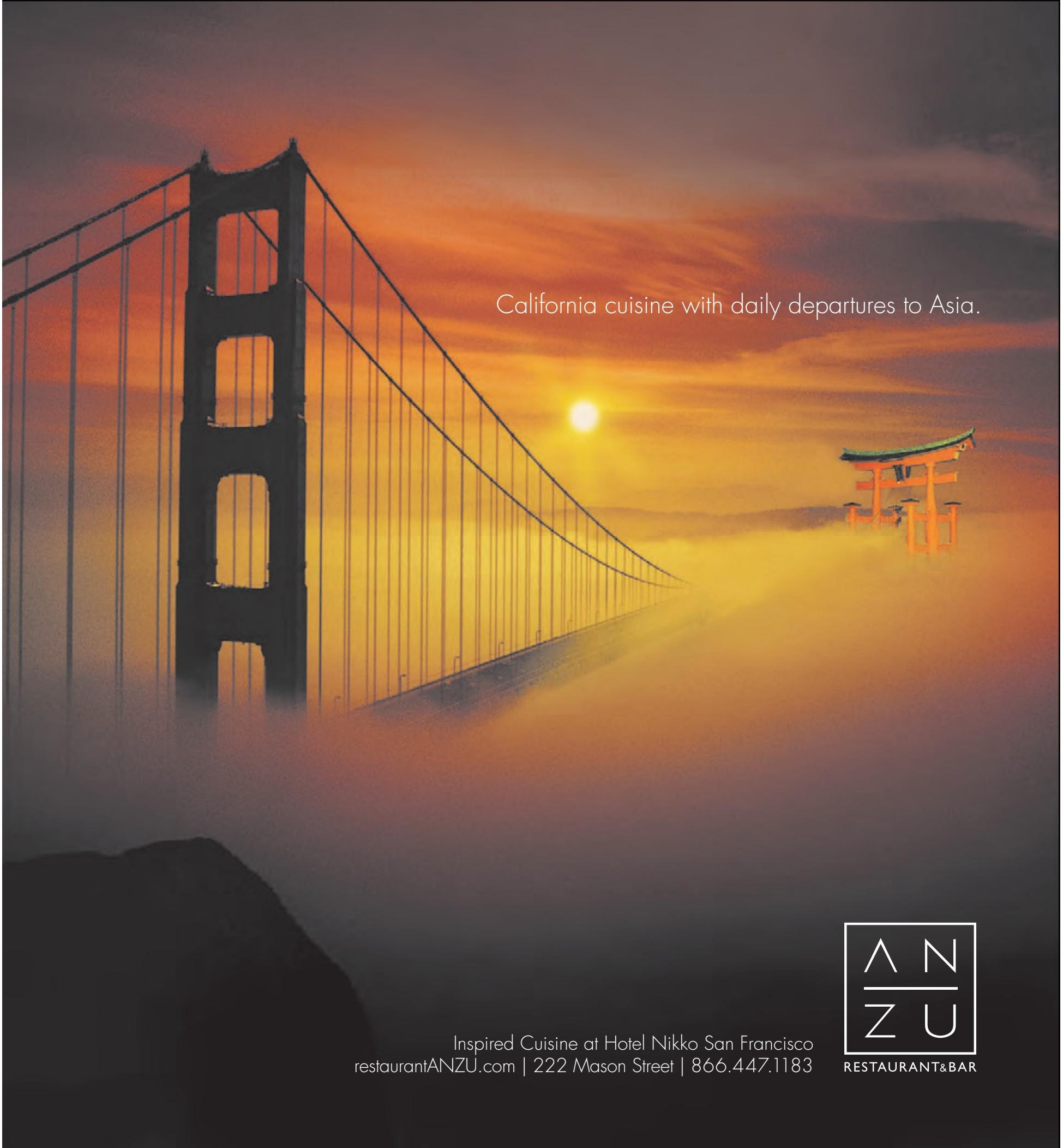
### BEST RETURN OF THE MAC

A one-room schoolhouse feel, minus the 'marm but plus the mac? That seems right for a light-hearted, full-flavored spot that zaps you back — maybe not to *Little House on the Prairie* days (although the ingredients are Ingalls-fresh), but at least to second grade, when a grilled cheese and tomato soup were all the haute cuisine one needed. Oakland's cute **Homeroom** makes us want to check that we have both of our mittens clipped to our sleeves as we dive into updated youth clas-

sics: grilled cheese with Inna jalapeño jam, Blue Lake string beans, and Three Twins root beer floats. Best of all, oodles of mac 'n' cheese, made with everything from tangy chevre to hot chorizo, Gilroy garlic to vegan-version walnut. School's in for summer! 400 40th, Oakl. (510) 597-0400, www.homeroom510.com

### BEST PORK DESSERT

If they shoot horses (don't they?) and make garlic ice cream, they might as well whip up a dessert with pork in it. And they do: the **peanut butter pie at Straw**, a nifty little carnival-themed restaurant that opened recently on Octavia Boulevard in Hayes Valley. The pie filling is a luxurious mousse and the crust is chocolate, so you could make CONTINUES ON PAGE 30 >>



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## Food and Drink

CONT>>

a good case that such a confection wouldn't need pork — or anything else. But in the spirit of fun, the kitchen does lay some bits of candied bacon atop each slice. Candied bacon! When Homer Simpson finally dies and goes to heaven, this is what he will feast on. Until then, you can treat yourself to a little taste.

203 Octavia, SF. (415) 431-3663,  
[www.strawsf.com](http://www.strawsf.com)

### BEST SOUTHERN SLICE OF GLASS PIE

Aficionados of Southern cooking will agree that a slice of pecan pie is a nice way to end a meal. But even if you don't like pecan pie — or you're forswearing all desserts for some reason — you can still help yourself to a big slice of the glass pie at **Criolla Kitchen**, because the New Orleans-influenced restaurant is itself a big slice

spirits as well as he does scissors. As plainly evidenced from the bottle, which displays a 1923 photo of Cimino's grandfather in Prohibition-era Potrero Hill, he hails from a long line of distillers. But his eyes are on the future: Cimino hopes to release a classic bourbon and cherry-smoked bourbon to expand 1512's lineup. Sip these locally-made spirits at bars across the city, or get a pour with a shave at Cimino's 1512 Barbershop in Nob Hill.

[www.1512spirits.com](http://www.1512spirits.com)

### BEST IMPERSONATION OF AN ART GALLERY BY A RESTAURANT

You are to be pardoned if you approach the nondescript brick SoMa building that houses **Una Pizza Napoletana**, walk through the door (plate glass, like the rest of the façade), and have the brief sensation of arriving at an art gallery between installations. Or perhaps the high-ceilinged,

Harun, the hot dog vendor on Third and Filbert, makes the most amazing gyros. Plus, he's one helluva conversationalist.

Bun lover, West Oakland

of glass pie. The wedge-shaped space is window-intensive, looks westward, and is splashed with sunlight in its many shades and tempers. It's like the second coming of Zuni Cafe. In such an enchanted setting, it could be easy for the food to slip, but not here; from the hushpuppies to the po'boys to (yes!) the pecan pie, the kitchen consistently delivers.

2295 Market, SF. (415) 552-5811,  
[www.criollakitchen.com](http://www.criollakitchen.com)

white-walled cube — with a turquoise-tiled conical shape rising from the center — seems more like a museum? No. It's a pizzeria, home to tattooed chef and former New Yorker Anthony Mangieri, and the tiled shrine is the pizza oven. Pizza is the sole objet d'art: that's it, nothing more, no sides, substitutions, condiments, nada. The drill isn't quite as severe as on *Seinfeld's* "Soup Nazi" episode, but it's still a singular — and tasty — experience.

210 11th St., SF. (415) 861-3444,  
[www.unapizza.com/sf](http://www.unapizza.com/sf)

### BEST CRAFT CHEERS

When the Bourbon and Branch crew took over the former Tenderloin bar Club 441, it dubbed the bar **Mr. Lew's Win Win Bar & Grand Sazerac Emporium**



**Best Family Italian (With Free Cheese!):** Gold Mirror Restaurant | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

for a birthday party for B and B creative director. The renaming was meant as a one-night joke, but the name stuck (regulars shorten it to "441"). Whatever you call it, the dive — naturally — serves quality Sazeracs and other classic cocktails. Everyone gets into cheesy movie Wednesdays: *Top Gun* led to a group rendition of "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," complete with a craft-cocktailed gentleman belting atop the bar. Though there's talk of remodeling, we hope 441 stays as is: a dingy, sticky place where industry insiders can grab a well-made post-shift drink. 441 Jones, SF. (415) 474-2284, [www.mrlews.com](http://www.mrlews.com)

#### BEST SWEET TREATS FOR TECH GEEKS

Sure, there are plenty of places in the Mission to park it and plug in, but the **Summit Café** provides the chance to nosh on cocoa nib nougatine and buttermilk bubbles (no stale croissants here) while the ol'

MacBook boots up. The Summit may seem steep — a tiny mocha is \$5 and most desserts are \$9 or \$10 — but the payoff is oh-so-sweet. The concept behind Summit is innovative in a techie way: it hopes to combine work and home into a "third space" to foster broader interaction and creativity. So while basically working forever, we'll happily gorge on a rotating dessert menu full of high quality ingredients and imaginative concoctions (think beet fluid gel and Summit-exclusive Humphry Slocombe espresso balsamic ice cream) as we whip up that superhuman invisibility app.

780 Valencia, SF. (415) 861-5330, [www.thesummit-sf.com](http://www.thesummit-sf.com)

#### BEST CRUNCHY ALMOND BALLS

Waits are long at dingy, bustling **Hong Kong Lounge**, but on weekends you'll be kept company by multigenerational Chinese families — kids and grandparents

bonding over mountainous cheap meals. Like all superlative dim sum spots, not only is a meal here blessedly affordable (generally \$2-\$6 for dim sum plates), there are unusual items — like deep-fried coffee pork ribs that taste robustly of a cup of joe — to keep things interesting. We're in love with the Lounge's egg yolk almond balls: they're doughy and filled with yellow sweet cream that looks like yolk. The balls taste similar to Chinese egg custards and are coated in almond shavings for a satisfying crunch.

5322 Geary, SF. (415) 668-8836

#### BEST CHANGE OF CHEESE

Waits can be epic at Plow, which has become Potrero's brunch destination in the year since it opened. But there's no reason to spin your wheels — try the breakfast and lunch menus Tuesday through Friday for quicker comestibles. For a midday meal, you could hardly

CONTINUES ON PAGE 32 >>

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## Food and Drink

CONT>>

do better than **Plow's grilled cheese sandwich**. It's always bracketed by thick slabs of Acme bread, but its filler rotates: one day you might be noshing on Vermont cheddar accompanying a Point Reyes Toma, on another you'll sink into Gruyere and creamy fromage blanc with sweet oven-roasted tomatoes. Collect them all! It's certainly a possibility — sandos this good have us craving another by the last bite.

1299 18th St., SF. (415) 821-7569,  
[www.eatatplow.com](http://www.eatatplow.com)

### BEST NO-HASSLE HOF

We've been raving about good cheer and good food at **Leopold's** since it opened in January. The masses quickly followed suit and the Austrian hofbrau has been packed ever since. Tip back German, American, and Belgian draft beers at hearty pinewood tables under animal heads and Austrian art — a warm, welcoming space created by Sazberg natives and brothers Albert and Klaus Rainer. With comforting Hungarian goulash (the border between Hungary and Austria is a shifty thing) and traditional wiener schnitzel, you'll never make it out of here hungry — just make sure you save room for the *apfelstrudel*. 2400 Polk, SF. (415) 474-2000,  
[www.leopoldssf.com](http://www.leopoldssf.com)

### BEST HOME ROASTS IN THE AVENUES

The gracious husband and wife team behind the beans at **Brown Owl Coffee** have been roasting together as Hearth Coffee Roasters



**Best Besting of the Big Bottles:** House Kombucha | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

for a few years now. Their passion shows — the two serve lush coffees at their tiny, cozy cafe. Impeccable cappuccinos and a mean cup of drip pair well with breads and pastries from local producers like Mi2Sweets; Oakland's Peoples Donuts; and baklava from Richmond Egyptian restaurant Al

Masri. Affogato lovers, take note — theirs is a beaut, made with Straus vanilla ice cream. Tucked out in the avenues, Brown Owl's a big "how now?" to those who locate SF's superior beans solely Mission and SoMa-side. 1131 Taraval, SF. (415) 242-1426,  
[www.brownowlcoffee.com](http://www.brownowlcoffee.com)

### BEST WAY TO GET SMARTER BY DRINKING

San Franciscans are lucky to have educational opportunities like the **Boothby Center for the Beverage Arts**. Over the last year — since it debuted during SF Cocktail Week — it has played host to a slew of classes,

tastings, and events regarding all things drink. Of course, cocktails and spirits are heavily represented, but founder H. Joseph Ehrmann also envisions coffee classes, tea and wine seminars — and more — for the future of his Mixology 101 series. With classes like "One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer" and "When It's Cocktail Time in Cuba" (a journey through Cuba's cocktail and rum heyday), learning was never so much — hic! — fun. 1161 Mission, Suite 120, SF. Facebook: Boothby Center for the Beverage Arts

### BEST BEANS ON A TRUCK

You'll know it by the smell of slow-roasting ribs and pulled pork: on weekdays **Smoke BBQ** generally parks its truck on a semi-desolate warehouse stretch of Bayview-Hunters Point. The pulled pork has a satisfying juiciness, reflecting its Midwest roots. The brisket and ribs are well loved by local worker bees. But what gives the meats a run for their money is the Smoke BBQ's BBQ beans. Rich broth, smoky beans, and fatty chunks of pork — so good you just might forget your carnivorous entree.

1438 Davidson, SF. (415) 312-1637  
[www.smokebbqsf.com](http://www.smokebbqsf.com)

### BEST BESTING OF THE BIG BOTTLES

The year was 2010, a flim-flam was erupting over the high alcohol content of kombucha sold long after its bottling date — and large companies with their complicated supply lines were compelled to pull their brews from grocery store shelves. Not so **House Kombucha**,

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SF's little 'bucha bottler that could. The Sixth Street factory was able to gain a sturdy market share due to its local distribution and small company profile — not to mention its sustainable practices (the company recently announced a 42 percent bottle return rate — that 50-cent deposit really works!). Best of all: we got to continue drinking its delicate vanilla orchid root and rose black tea flavors uninterrupted. Available at various Bay Area grocery stores. [housekombucha.food.officelive.com](http://housekombucha.food.officelive.com)

### BEST RIGHTEOUS VEGAN SASS

If we could even fake the exuberance that **Vegansaurus** editor-founder Laura Beck trips out willy-nilly in her sparkingly sassy blog posts sans animal products ... we'd be running to the store a lot more for economy-sized boxes of capital letters and exclamation points. But the site's zazz is by no means irritating — indeed, we consider its daily updates on the hottest new vegan grub dens, footwear, and activist news required reading for leading a sexy, cut-



ting-edge vegan lifestyle in the Bay (and with the addition of new writers, the country). Plus, the site dares to say everything non-meaties tend to suppress for politeness' sake. Sample quote on animal-abusive lab workers: "I hope they get totally fucked by justice!" [www.vegansaurus.com](http://www.vegansaurus.com)

### BEST ARMAGNAC ATTACK

There's a saying that goes "the French make cognac, but they drink Armagnac." Add an "as do San Franciscans" parenthetical to

CONTINUES ON PAGE 34 >>

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## BEST OF THE BAY 2011

# Beautiful Rebels

PHOTO BY PAT MAZZERA



### BEST SOUL OF COMPASSIONATE CUISINE

Why can't there be more restaurants like downtown Oakland's **Souley Vegan**? A place where dietary proclivities are rendered moot by a Southern fried tofu sandwich so crispy and complete you never have to think of the battered catfish you would be destroying in a carnivore's restaurant. And then there are the black-eyed peas and okra. For your ensuing satiated state, you

can thank owner, mom, entrepreneur, and vegan inspiration Tamearra Dyson, who has been eating animal-free for so long she can't remember any other way. Tamearra, what do you use instead of dairy to get your mac 'n cheese so creamy? "What do you use?" she laughs. "You just don't use it!" 301 Broadway, Oakl. (510) 922-1615, [www.souleyvegan.com](http://www.souleyvegan.com)

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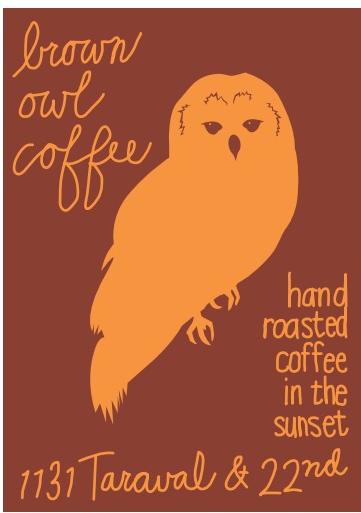
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## Food and Drink

CONT'D>

the truism, because one 76-year-old Fillmore Street liquor store stocks a collection of the superior Gallic brandy fit to spawn a connoisseur. We refer to **D&M Liquors' Armagnac selection**, which includes \$50 bottles of Tariquet for everyday sips as well as Veuve J. Goudoulin Vieux Bas vintages dating back to 1929 and bottled especially for the store. Ex-D&M employee Charles Neal set up this transatlantic partnership and proceeded to (literally) write the book on the subject — *Armagnac: The Definitive Guide to France's Premier Brandy*. Unfamiliar with Armagnac? The friendly staff are happy to give you the 411.

2200 Fillmore, SF. (415) 346-1325,  
[www.dandm.com](http://www.dandm.com)

you choose, the brothers will ask if you want it with their homemade garlic spread. Say yes.

2249 17th St., SF. (415) 863-1213,  
[www.calabriabrosdeli.com](http://www.calabriabrosdeli.com)

### BEST AQUATIC SMOKES

We love smoked salmon. Cold-smoked, hot-smoked, maple-smoked, pepper-smoked — especially wild and locally caught salmon purchased from a seasoned Half Moon Bay fisherman named Pietro Pavarrano. But we also recognize that there are other fish in the sea, especially the Caspian Sea. And when we're in that transoceanic frame of mind, we head to **New World Market** in the Richmond, where the no-nonsense Russians who run the place offer dozens of species of smoked fish, ranging from sturgeon to sea bass to fish you've never heard of. While we're there, we also like to pick up the housemade borscht,



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Aileen, Lower Pacific Heights

### BEST BROMANCE ON BREAD

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kefir, and — to undo all the good effects of the beets in the borscht and the probiotics in the kefir — some chocolate babka and an Obolon beer from the Ukraine. 5641 Geary, SF. (415) 751-8810

### BEST FRENCH KISS (ON BOTH CHEEKS)

Ah, the French. They may be derided as pretentious and spoofed for pomposity, but really, is there anything more irresistibly *charmant* than a *maitre d'* with a French accent who runs to greet, addresses you as "monsieur" or "madame," kisses your hand, and almost renders you dizzy with the inebriating bonhomie wafting from his person? We don't think so. And when we want this kind of treatment — and some superlative food and wine — we head to **Bistro Central Parc**. A Panhandle institution long before NoPa was



NoPa (the neighborhood) and NoPa had Nopa (the restaurant), this friendly Francais fixture excels at staples like beef bourguignon and duck confit. Can't find it? Follow the neighbors, and the mingled smells of bouillabaisse and frites.

560 Central, SF. (415) 750-1111.  
[www.bistrocentralparc.com](http://www.bistrocentralparc.com)

#### BEST PLACE TO YUCA IT UP

Yuca — sounds like yucky, often looks and tastes like same. Turquoise-splashed Puerto Rican restaurant **Parada 22** in the Upper Haight turns that yuca to yum. Rarely eaten here, yuca is the deliciously inescapable side dish for the bulk of the entrees, the centerpiece of the vegetarian platter, and the base of the yucca, avocado and garlic soup. Even as a standalone side, mashed and marinated in onion, olive oil, garlic, and spices, it shines. Parada 22's savory way with the cassava root (as it's known in much of the USA) complements home-style island favorites like tender, oregano-suffused pernil asado pork and a piquant pollo encebollado (chicken smothered in onions). For real starch maniacs, order a side with the truly scrumptious mofongo, mashed plantains with shrimp criolla.

1805 Haight, SF. (415) 750-1111.  
[www.parada22.com](http://www.parada22.com)

#### BEST ROBBER BAR-ROOM

Revisit the era of California's four robber barons — those capitalist tycoons who plundered their way to railroad riches in gold-rushing 19th-century California — at the **InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel's Big Four Restaurant**.

Kitty-corner from the austere spires of Grace Cathedral (built on the earthquake-ravaged land of the Big Four's Charles Crocker himself), the Bay's premier lounge pianist Michael Parsons tinkles the joint's keys while congenial barkeeps Ty and Jeffrey reside behind a 10-stool counter of gleaming brass. Join the boys at the bar or settle into leather-cushioned table seating for chef Gloria Ciccarone-Nehls' specialty: wild game. Eat your meat and gaze upon the historic framed photos lining the walls.

1075 California, SF. (415) 771-1140,  
[www.big4restaurant.com](http://www.big4restaurant.com)

CONTINUES ON PAGE 37 >>

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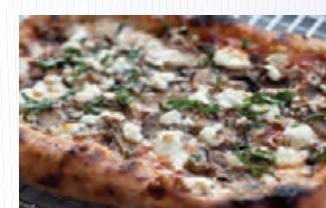
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**Best No-Hassle Hof:** Leopold's | PHOTO BY VIRGINIA MILLER

## Food and Drink

CONT'D >>

### BEST FAMILY ITALIAN (WITH FREE CHEESE!)

The eponymous vintage painting of two blondes and their reflections that hangs inside an alcove of this classic Sunset District Italian restaurant is far from its sole golden attraction. Complimentary sharp cheddar cheese with crackers awaits you at the bar — not quite as epistemologically relevant, but certainly a nice prelude to your veal piccata and house-made tiramisu. The **Gold Mirror Restaurant** started as a 1940s Fillmore District cocktail lounge but relocated in the 1950s. Since then — except for when a runaway delivery truck caused a temporary closure in 2004 — chef Giuseppe Di Grande, wife Josephine, and sons Domenico and Roberto have continuously maintained the classy-comfortable place for what

it is: a shining reflection of old-style San Francisco.

800 Taraval, SF. (415) 564-0401, [www.goldmirrorrestaurant.com](http://www.goldmirrorrestaurant.com)

### BEST RUSSIAN RUSH

If you come from good peasant stock (did your grandfather slurp coffee from his saucer? Grandmother wear dresses and wool socks?), then you probably have regular waves of nostalgia for things like cabbage soup, pickled cabbage, cabbage rolls, cabbage dumplings, and cabbage pie. All at the same meal. At **Cinderella Russian Bakery and Café**, you can indulge all your yearnings for foods sour, smoked, sweet, earthy, tangy, and cruciferous. The ultra-tiny cafe has been around since 1953 and hasn't strayed from its peasant-food-with-panache approach, offering blinchiki, piroshki, pirogi (if you already know the difference between those last two, congratulations), sour soups, etc. Come here to eat loudly;

see really short, really cute older dames; and wear your woolly-sock-and-dress combo with pride. 436 Balboa, SF. (415) 751-9690. [www.cinderellabakery.com](http://www.cinderellabakery.com)

### BEST CHOCOLATE LIQUIFACTION

In the third season of *Dexter*, top cop Maria has two bonding experiences with women that are consummated with two words: "ganache frosting." Ganache — that rich, delicious, thick, delicious, dense, delicious mix of chocolate and cream — is the base element of **Boulette Larder's singular cup of Eastern European-style hot chocolate**. All day long, Boulette's attentive chefs keep a pan of molten ganache simmering in anticipation of its hot chocolate fans. The result is hot chocolate so thick you almost need a spoon, and so satisfying you can omit that dollop of cream. But an almost-colloidal scoop of liquid nirvana

CONTINUES ON PAGE 38 >>

# Mitchell's ICE CREAM

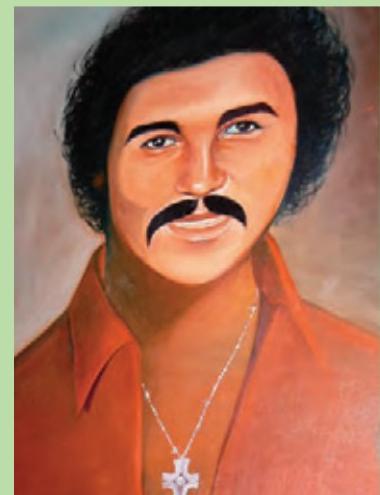
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## Food and Drink

CONT>>

doesn't come cheap: it'll cost you \$5 to go and \$6 to stay. Still, that's way cheaper than booking a flight to Prague. Now we know how Maria felt.

1 Ferry Building No. 48, SF. (415) 399-1155, [www.bouletteslarder.com](http://www.bouletteslarder.com)

### BEST GRINDER AT YOUR BAR STOOL

So you're happily imbibing at the Mission's 500 Club, and you're a wee bit too wobbly to uproot yourself from your bar stool. But dammit — you're hungry, and no amount of tipsy wishing can summon the Tamale Lady on command. Thank the gods for **Clare's Deli and Late Night Kitchen**.

**Kitchen.** Just steps away from the Five, you can call in, order up (the meatball grinder, an homage to the legendary East Coast staple, is a comfort-food masterpiece), and be back in your spot before your latest song even finishes on the juke box. Clare's will deliver your salvation to you at the bar, or anywhere in San Francisco. Though this is a mighty fine service — and Clare's is open seven days, 11 a.m.–11 p.m., with a neato daily dinner menu — the deli also offers options for non-booz-

hounds: park at the few tables on location, or grab your food to go: to your home, to nearby Dolores Park, or to wherever delicious meatballs are needed most. 3505 17th St., SF. (415) 621-3505, [www.claresdeli.com](http://www.claresdeli.com)

### BEST BIGGEST BAYVIEW BRAZILIAN BURGERS

Make sure you're hungry when you roll up to the **Junior Barbecue** food truck to order one of Junior's famous Brazilian burgers. The sandwich Junior hands you, wrapped in paper to keep the juices from cascading out, will be enormous. The uniquely delicious, stick-to-your-ribs burgers are packed with enough ingredients to equal about three meals — beef patty, egg, bacon, hot dog, cheese, ham, pineapple, grilled onion, fresh lettuce, tomato, and corn mayo crammed into a bun. Eight dollars gets you a burger, which will feed you for a couple days, and a Coke. Junior is a gracious Brazilian who has lived in the United States for 11 years and can't do enough to ensure that his customers are happy. Want some ketchup? Need a napkin? On a bike? How about a bag with handles to make it easier for you? Napoleon at Evans, SF



## BEST SUBLINGUAL HIGH

The Bay Area's well-developed medical marijuana industry has done much to elevate the age-old practice of smoking marijuana to new heights, with sticky, stinky new strains and a wide variety of edibles. Along with improvements of the herbal variety have come winning technological advances: the formulation of some mighty fine of cannabis tinctures and other concentrates. Our favorite? **Alta California tinctures** by CBD Science, formerly known as 420 Alchemy. Take a drop or

two sublingually (that's under the tongue, stoners) and you'll attain a beautiful high that's different from smoking, vaporizing, or eating — a clear but consuming ride that seems to emanate from your very tissues, almost ecstasy-like. Three varieties — Healing, Tranquility, and Euphoria — give fans a range of satisfaction.

(877) 737-4420,  
[www.4altacalifornia.com](http://www.4altacalifornia.com)

## BEST WAKE 'N' SHAKE

The only bad thing about Rudy's Can't Fail Café in Emeryville is the parking — and that's because

everything else is so damn good. (A new second location in uptown Oakland may bring drivers better luck.) From breakfast-all-day omelets and tofu scrambles to straight-up burgers and fries, the time-honored diner fare is good enough to keep cars circling the block for a spot. But if you're eco-conscious, you'll consider fueling yourself, rather than your car, to start your day off Rudy's-right. For that, there's nothing better than the **Rudy's Can't Fail Shakin' Jesse** — an inspired blend of Guinness

CONTINUES ON PAGE 40 >>

## BEST OF THE BAY 2011

# *Beautiful Rebels*

PHOTO BY PAT MAZZERA



## BEST FAIR FOOD FRIEND

If you're still eating Chilean sea bass or farmed Asian tilapia — sustainability no-swim zones — you really have no excuse. The info on eating locally and sustainably in the Bay is out there, and how. But how are you supposed to know if the person who prepares and serves your citrus-marinated ceviche is being treated well? Past shoving through the swinging kitchen doors and

interrogating the table busser, it can be tough. Thank goodness for our copy of the **Young Workers United's Dining With Justice** guide, which the nonprofit put together after surveying restaurant employees across the city. Kudos to the nine eateries that scored high and a big "Where you at?" to the ones that didn't. [www.youngworkersunited.org](http://www.youngworkersunited.org)

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Best Communal Eats, Tweeted: farm : table | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

### Food and Drink

CONT'D

stout, chocolate ice cream, and homebrewed espresso. All the essentials in one malty mug, ready to whisk away the previous night's hangover and power a morning of full-throttle accomplishment.

481 Hollis, Emeryville. (510) 594-1221 and 1805 Telegraph, Oakl. (510) 251-9400, [www.iamrudy.com](http://www.iamrudy.com)

#### BEST STAR EGG

You'll want to come back to Oakland native Syhabout — a veteran of Spain's El Bulli, the U.K.'s Fat Duck, and the Bay Area's Coi — and his crew earned O-town's first Michelin star. The other reasons lie in the subtle magic he wrings out of seasonal, locally grown or foraged ingredients like garlic scapes, wild fennel pollen, sea lettuce, English peas, oxalis, thyme, and nasturtium.

3859 Piedmont, Oakl. (510) 653-3902, [www.commisrestaurant.com](http://www.commisrestaurant.com).

Oakland native Syhabout — a veteran of Spain's El Bulli, the U.K.'s Fat Duck, and the Bay Area's Coi — and his crew earned O-town's first Michelin star. The other reasons lie in the subtle magic he wrings out of seasonal, locally grown or foraged ingredients like garlic scapes, wild fennel pollen, sea lettuce, English peas, oxalis, thyme, and nasturtium.

3859 Piedmont, Oakl. (510) 653-3902, [www.commisrestaurant.com](http://www.commisrestaurant.com).

#### BEST SMILING STAR OF THE SALVADORAN SAVORIES

Maria del Carmen Flores of Estrellita's Snacks has been cooking since she was six. She took notes from her mother in El Salvador until she had mastered the pupusa. Then she lived in Mexico, learning the local cuisine. Her masa envelopes are plump, griddle-crispy on the outside and packed with toothsome seasoned meats, vegetables, and cheese. The

pickled veggies are optional — in name only. Sliced thick, they're best when combined with Flores' hot salsa: all told, a perfectly crafted snack (but really a meal) you'll crave all week long. Or maybe you're just missing the metal stars that flash in Flores' grill every time she smiles — telling you that the woman's a dedicated entrepreneur. Sat.-Sun., 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Alemany Farmers Market, 100 Alemany, SF. Also various Bay Area festivals. [www.estrellitassnacks.com](http://www.estrellitassnacks.com)

#### BEST HAPP(IL)Y (SELF-DETERMINED) HOUR

Booze cruise to Asiento at 5 p.m. Every day, the first person into the Mission District bar at the designated hour of power gets to name their poison and their drink is added to the day's happy hour specials. A soaring purple comet mural covers one side of Asiento — follow its trajectory and you'll find classy cocktails, tapas, board games, and a comfy yet sleek



neighborhood bar. Quietly gaining popularity in recent months as a friendly place to meet your building mates, Asiento also offers a late-night Sunday happy hour from 10 p.m. to midnight for the hard-working service industry superstars among us. It's even serves brunch. 2730 21st St., SF. (415) 829-3375, [www.asientosf.com](http://www.asientosf.com)

#### BEST REVENGE SERVED COLD

At 7.5 percent alcohol by volume, **Speakeasy Brewery's Payback Porter** is dark, sweet, and potent — good traits for anything, great traits in a beer. This is not to say Payback is cloying; rather, it begins with a fresh bitterness that quickly melts into one of the smoothest strong beers available, whether on

losing-it labels: Cereal Killer, Dead Elvis, Comfortably Numb. Liberate the patients from their glass pastry case! You'd be crazy to miss out.

288 South Second St., San Jose; 2006 South Winchester, Campbell. (408) 378-4540, [www.psycho-donuts.com](http://www.psycho-donuts.com)

#### BEST PANCAKE WITH A SIDE OF CHOW MEIN

**Punjab Chinese American**

**Restaurant** (the name's not a reference to the Indian state, here it means "fire dragon") offers free mimosas with its weekend brunch, a standard Americana menu of eggs, pancakes, french toast, and the like. Standard that is, until one considers that the weekday menu is also fair game, from traditional Chinese fare to trash food staples

Deli Board is the best. Ike ain't got shit on Adam. Everybody keep going to Ike's though — don't blow up my fave spot.

Peter, Western Addition

tap or in 22-ounce bottles. For all you lager louts, Payback makes for an easy first step into darker brews. And once you're hooked, Payback is easy to get — it was formerly known as "Hunters Point Porter" in honor of the location of Speakeasy's brewery — and is now sold all over its hometown. 1195 Evans, SF. (415) 642-3371, [www.goodbeer.com](http://www.goodbeer.com)

#### BEST DONUTSOS

All our lives, we have searched for a pastry that resembles a mosh pit fatality. And now that we've found it — the raspberry jelly-filled Headbanger — small matter that we have go to San Jose to re-up. Such is the glory that is **Psycho Donuts**, where the employees wear old-fashioned nurse uniforms and preside over a parade of freak-out frosts, meat-stuffed donuts, tart raspberry-and-key-lime vegan 'nuts, even 14-inch donut pizzas made to order and a cocktail-flavored donut of the month. Many are charmingly dubbed with

like hot dogs and cheeseburgers — and some say the joint's Polynesian fried chicken is among the best cluck in town. Whatever's making your tummy rumble, the secret to Punjab is to call in your order in advance — this homemade fare takes time to prepare.

2838 24th St., SF. (415) 282-4011

#### BEST LIQUOR LOWDOWN

Why is it that we like to read about food and drink so much on the Web? In no other Internet area, except maybe porn, is the meeting of the weightlessly virtual and the essentially physical so addictively fruitful. And while crackerjack local liquor expert Camper English's **Alcademics** site doesn't tear off your panties with glossy cocktail shots, his entertainingly detailed descriptions of the latest drool-worthy liquors will have you practically licking your screen. Over the past four years — besides visiting more than 70 distilleries, blending houses,

CONTINUES ON PAGE 42 >>

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## Food and Drink

CONT>>

and bodegas in 14 countries — Alcademics has helped refine the Bay Area's cocktail-blogging niche with some much-needed worldliness and a willingness to look deeper at what's in our highball. (English's degree in physics helps here.) Now you can drink to feel smarter! [www.alcademics.com](http://www.alcademics.com)

### BEST COMMUNAL EATS, TWEETED

"Red leaf lettuce soup crème fraîche toasted almonds, country ham on pan de mie caramelized onions dijon mustard, arugula and green bean salad" is just one character shy of 140 characters. And that one character is you — as in "Why aren't you rushing down to **farm : table** right now to stuff your face?" The super-tiny Tenderloin breakfast and lunch hotspot didn't pioneer the art of announcing

thing he let that scrumptious light shine, following his muse to create **Hooker's Sweet Treats** — handmade, habit-forming, sea-salted, dark chocolate-covered caramels. These little babies, which Williams calls his "hookers," work the corners of finer food stores like Bi-Rite Market or display themselves tantalizingly at the homey Hooker's Sweet Treats Café in the Tenderloin, tempting you to pick up a private evening's worth of smooth and gooey entertainment. Or hey, just gorge on all the hookers you want right there, accompanied by a fresh cup of Sightglass coffee and to-die-for plum pudding.

442 Hyde, SF.

[www.hookerssweettreats.com](http://www.hookerssweettreats.com)

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Sexy, SoMa

its daily menu via Twitter every morning, but it quickly became the most mouthwatering thing on our feed. In real life, **farm : table** has the whole local, foraged, organic, and yummy thing down. And you can share your meal seated around one large inside table with strangers — a boon for those seeking a more communal feel in this often alienating world.

754 Post, SF. (415) 292-7089, [www.farmtablesf.com](http://www.farmtablesf.com)

### BEST SWEET HOOKERS

We used to love watching David "Hooker" Williams rule the pool table and patio at the Pilsner Inn back in the day. But who knew then that lurking within him was the potential to blow our sweet tooth into the stratosphere? Good

compliant, the striking tavern in SoMa raised the bar for restaurant design. Good for it. It's lovely; it's immaculate; we would almost eat off the walls. But — besides the fact that all this green-edged conception has actually yielded a comfortable vibe, stellar drinks, and spectacular cooking (please try the sauerkraut soup and roasted mussels with chorizo) — what's the real news? Agricole! The classic West Indian white rum, or *rhum*, is derived from pure cane juice and much prized by the French. Bar Agricole serves it in its ti punch cocktail, spiffily accented with lime zest. The clean, crisp taste evokes an amiable warmth within, much like Bar Agricole itself. 355 11th St., SF. (415) 355-9400, [www.baragricole.com](http://www.baragricole.com)



**Best Craft Cheers:** Mr. Lew's Win Win Bar & Grand Sazerac Emporium | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

#### BEST KOREAN CHICKEN GARAGE

You hear tales of a magical Korean restaurant located in a converted garage near Ocean Beach, barely marked by a strand of Christmas lights and a winking chicken with a bowtie and green hair. The restaurant is open until 2 a.m. and is perfect for after-bar snacks: kimchee fried rice, calamari and beef bulgogi, heaps of noodles, crispy fried clucker, and jugs of thick, soju-infused cocktails. When you enter **Toyose**, it's actually the quaintly decorated Korean restaurant of your imagination, with a tasty underground vibe to boot. Perfect for post-bar refreshment, true, but a destination in itself: you could lose yourself (and your party) in one of the huge, savory seafood casseroles or cauldrons of sizzling rice soup. And so affordable! No wonder it's jam-packed with the young and hot.

3814 Noriega, SF. (415) 731-0232

#### BEST SHABU-SHABU FOR KLUTZES

We're not sure what your list of priorities looks like when it comes to promising soulmate candidates, but for us, that person better damn well know how to cook. Here's one nifty little trick for finding out if the person across the table can adequately steam your beef: schedule a shabu-shabu date. The Japanese cuisine, which requires you to use chopsticks to cook your own thinly sliced meats and veggies in a shared hotpot, is incredibly fun and tasty — once you get the hang of it. The friendly **Shabusen** in Japantown is our favorite, because it has an authentic atmosphere and a klutz-patient staff who don't mind a little splashy ineptitude. And if your companion happens to be a butterfingers, you can always save face with one of Shabusen's umami-rific sukiyakis.

1726 Buchanan, SF. (415) 440-0466

#### BEST CAKE-TASTROPHES

"I just want to make people read my evil shit," gleefully wicked Bay Area meta-baker and blogger Shannon O'Malley of **Apocalypse Cakes** told us last year. "Fatalistic gluttons!" Branch Davidian Texas Pecan Pie, Seismic Haitian Mudcake; Bird Flu Feather Cake, "Inexplicable" Blackbird Pie, Global Jihad Date Cake, even Gay Wedding Cake (there's bondage involved) — O'Malley's hilarious, conceptual "recipes for the End" play up our primal fascination with food and disaster while tweaking the foodie propensity for perky cultural appropriation. Now her End Times creations have been collected into an *Apocalypse Cakes* book, so you can unplug, retreat to your mountain survival hut, and indulge your millennial cravings, enraptured.

apocalypsecakes.wordpress.com SFBG

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[www.clubsix1.com](http://www.clubsix1.com)

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(510) 238-9200, [www.yoshis.com](http://www.yoshis.com)

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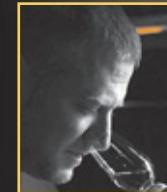
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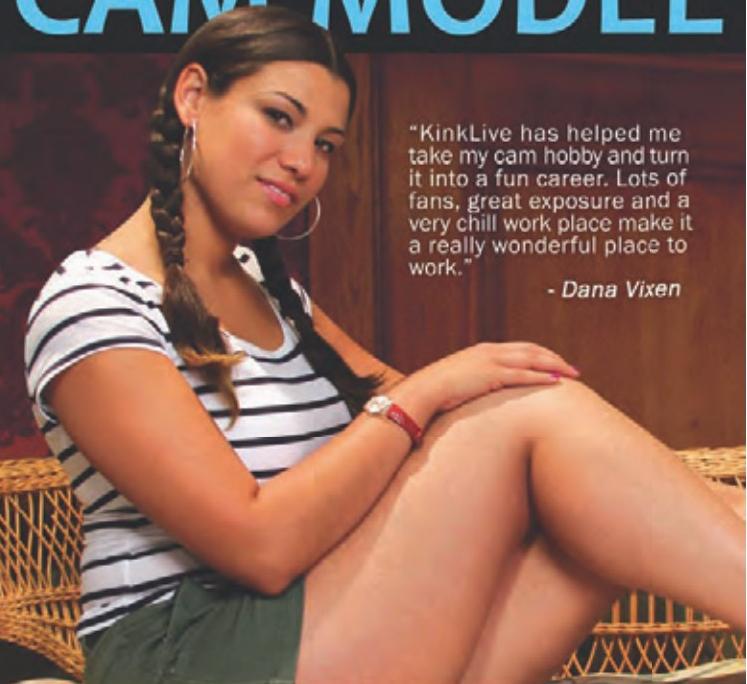
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## BEST OF THE BAY 2011: EDITORS PICKS

### Arts and Entertainment



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#### BEST HIGBROW WITH YOUR HIGHBALL

Though we appreciate the legions of pubs that rely on still shots and a good jukebox to entertain, we sometimes feel the need to broaden our drunken horizons with a good dose of drama. For those times, **San Francisco Theater Pub** is just the ticket. Chummily convened in the TenderNob's low-key Café Royale, San Francisco Theater Pub has performed new translations of classic Greek dramas and staged adaptations of Lovecraft, Whitman, Alfred Jarry's *Ubu Roi*, Evgeny Shvart's *The Dragon*, and Vlacak Havel's *The Audience*, as well as a series of San Francisco-themed shorts and a 75-minute version of Shakespeare's *Henry the IV* and *V* — all against a backdrop of barstools, beer mugs, and bad lighting. Best of all, admission is free, so you can spend more on beer. Ah, the sweet, sweet hangover of dramaturgy. At Café Royale, 800 Post, SF. (415) 441-4099, sftheaterpub.wordpress.com

#### BEST TITILLATING T.M.I.

Try as we might to hold to prudish societal lines, there's simply nothing

like telling a Really. Dirty. Story. (To a receptive group of friends.) Rejoice in your sluttiness, people! That's the franchise line that **Bawdy Storytelling** creator Dixie De La Tour touts. Started as a recurring post-swinger's night "kaffeklatesh for perverts," around her kitchen table, De La Tour has grown Bawdy into a public, monthly, multicity storytelling event for kinksters and exhibitionists. Each edition has its own theme (polygamy, public sex, and SF-specific tales have all had their moments of glory); a cast of performers ranging from writers to pro pussy-petters; an occasional Grope-A-Clown box for intermission entertainment; and always, Dixie — to shout encouraging innuendos when the occasion arises. [www.bawdystorytelling.com](http://www.bawdystorytelling.com)

#### BEST PROGRESSIVE CLUBHOUSE

Since early January, when Chris Daly stepped down from the Board of Supervisors and took ownership of the **Buck Tavern**, a political realignment has made City Hall a far less welcoming place for progressives. So they've followed Daly over to his new digs (nicknamed

Daly's Dive) instantly transforming the Mid-Market bar into the seat of power for the progressive local government-in-exile: a place where revolutions are plotted and frustrations are soothed with strong drinks and juicy burgers. With SFGTV on the tube, Daly sling-ing classic cocktails and brewskis, and malcontents lining the bar, the Buck has become a refuge for leftist political junkies. And for those looking for shockingly clean bar bathrooms.

1655 Market, SF. (415) 874-9183

#### BEST LORD OF METAL

You can't put **Slough Feg's Mike Scalzi** in a tidy box. As front man of the cult local metal band — its most recent album, 2010's *The Animal Spirits*, earned critical raves — he prowls the stage with a vaudevillian flair while performing blistering, melodious tunes (sample titles: "Trick the Vicar," "Ask the Casket"). Plus: he's a sci-fi fan; he teaches philosophy at Diablo Valley College; and he occasionally pens highly articulate, commenter-rattling columns for respected metal blog Invisible Oranges. Slough Feg

CONTINUES ON PAGE 48 >>

## MISSION CULTURAL CENTER FOR LATINO ARTS

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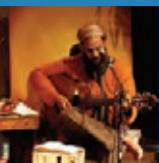


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Saturday July 30 / 7:00 pm / THEATER

### Misioneros de la Trova

Alfredo Gomez, MamaCoAti, Rafael Marquez, and Mario Rojas



Saturday August 6 / 8:00 pm / THEATER

### Teatro en el Barrio

Hector Zavala, Thomas John, TuTiatro, Matando Musas, and Vivian Sanchbraj



Friday August 12 & Saturday 13 / 7:00 pm / THEATER

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## Arts and Entertainment

CONT>>

will play a rare show Aug. 17 at the Elbo Room, opening for New Wave of British heavy metal legends Diamond Head. Voices will soar; faces will melt.

[www.sloughfeg.com](http://www.sloughfeg.com)

### BEST PLACE TO MEET YOUR MAKER

If you ever need reminding that nerd is still the new black, **TechShop** is at the ready. Inside this SoMa "open access public workshop" you'll find a veritable wonderland of high-tech tools for metal- and wood-working, machining, fabric crafts, electronics, and robotics — with classes on how to use it all. Offerings range from entry-level courses on basic skills like soldering, laser-cutting, silk-screening, milling, and injection-molding, to pro-pushing seminars on the latest precision machining tools and high-tech design soft-

ware. Individual memberships are a price, \$100-\$125 per month (less for students), but hey — at least you won't have to buy your own 3-D scanner! Whether you have a skill you're itching to hone, an invention you'd like to prototype, or a project you're hoping to finalize, this shop's capable crew will help you see it through.

926 Howard, SF. (415) 263-9161, [www.techshop.ws/tssf](http://www.techshop.ws/tssf)

### BEST AEROSOL ROOTS

It's easy to forget, with the advent of sleekly produced, four-story street art extravaganzas, that graffiti used to be the strictly illegal pursuit of brave-crazy iconoclasts hustling around with backpacks full of signed FedEx stickers and cans of Krylon. But thanks to the self-described "lizard people" behind **Endless Canvas**, the art of the throw up is still being honored. The Bay Area street-art blog is updated daily with the kinds of pieces that'll never star in a Warholian post — from ground

**Sparkle Motion** isn't just another drunk dart team. They're a drunk dart team that exposes themselves on occasion.

Doug, Excelsior

tags to the bubble letters of **WIRE**, to the small wheat paste gems of **Bella Ciao**'s roses and **Esu**'s proud female faces. The site's documentation dedication is testament to the real glory of street art: reasserting our right to be seen in a world that prefers blank walls.

[www.endlesscanvas.com](http://www.endlesscanvas.com)

### BEST 'PICKS OF PASSION

It is safe to say that Scott Weaver loves San Francisco. Leaving aside that Weaver's family has called the City by the Bay home for three generations, the man has spent the majority of his life recreating the city's charms with 100,000 toothpicks in an almost masochistically intricate behemoth he's titled "**Rolling Through the Bay**." The sculpture

— which includes two tracks that vault rolling ping pong balls past landmarks like the 1929 Cliff House, Fleischhacker Pool, and Humphrey the whale — had its Exploratorium debut this year, stunning audiences with Weaver's commitment to his craft. His regard for the skinny sticks is for real: the guy even had friends and family chucking picks at his wedding. That's love!

[www.rollingthroughthebay.com](http://www.rollingthroughthebay.com)

### BEST UN-EGGS-PECTED PUPPET SHOW

The goofy brainchild of professional juggler Thomas John, "**The Lady on the Wall**" turns the dry bones, childhood mystery of the fall of Humpty Dumpty into a convincingly hard-boiled puppet noir,

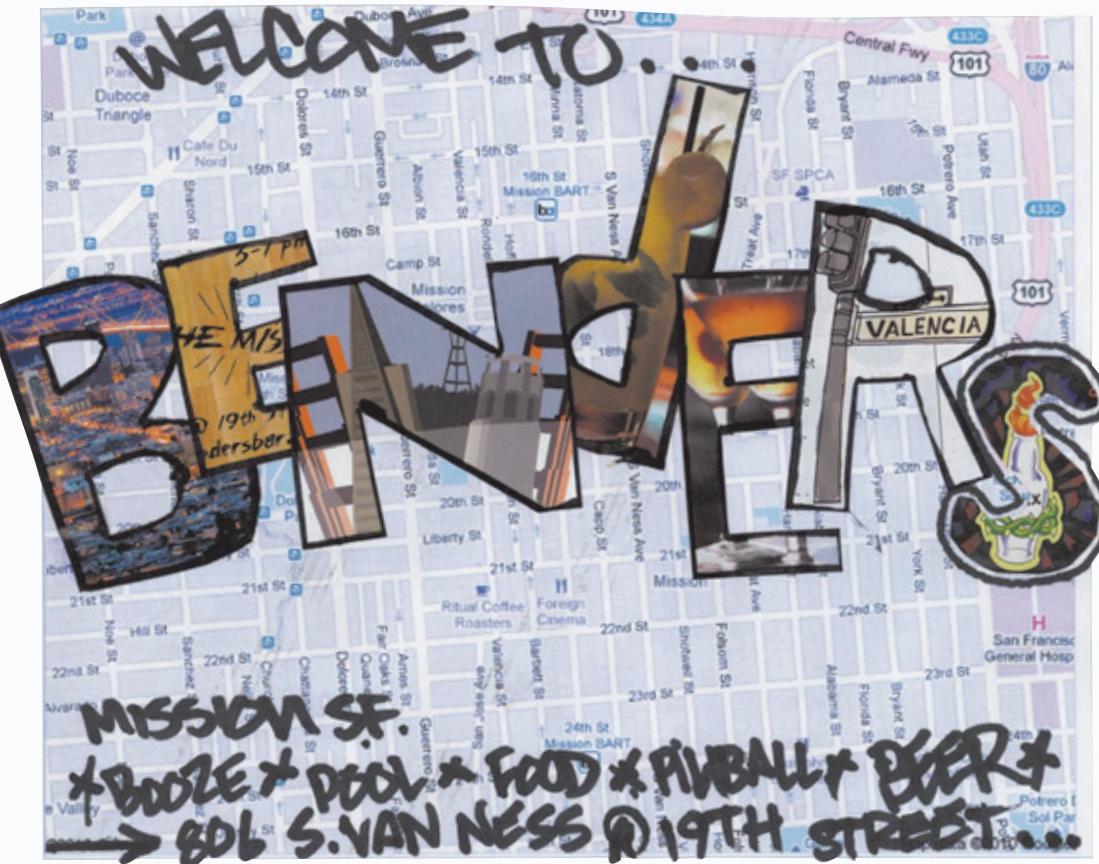
where all the puppets are eggs and almost all of them come to a rotten end. John's deadpan, pun-filled narration and his deft physical manipulation of the principal players make "Lady" the best-laid plot starring a farm-fresh, extra-large dozen in the Bay.

Performance runs are sporadic but well worth the watching and waiting. You can also catch John performing his combination clowning-and-juggling shows on the Center Stage at Fisherman's Wharf, and root for him as a final contestant on *America's Got Talent*. Plus he plays the glockenspiel? Pretty crackin', if you ask us.

[www.gigsalad.com/thomas\\_john](http://www.gigsalad.com/thomas_john)

### BEST ROMP WITH YOUR INNER PSYCHOPATH

"Do you want to play?" challenges Nathaniel Justiniano, the artistic director of Naked Empire Bouffon Company, who invites performing artists and activists of all disciplines to explore their loonier selves during his hardcore **Bouffon Intensive**



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**Best Spirit-raising Twirl:** Flagging in the Park | PHOTO BY ERIC LYNCH

weekend workshops. Participants learn to tap into their physical and emotional “asymmetry” and exaggerate it, excavating the bouffon within and applying their inside-out personas to any performance situation. The resultant characters — bundles of twisted, giggling, homicidal urges who have an uncomfortable talent for honing in on the weaknesses of others — are, well, insanely entertaining. Justiniano, who trained in bouffonnerie at the Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre, believes these “groveling goblin prophets” are harbingers of essential truths whose very grotesqueness compels people to pay them heed.

[www.nakedempirebouffon.com](http://www.nakedempirebouffon.com)

#### BEST SING-ALONG FOR WANNABE SEA DOGS

Admit it. You’ve always wanted to run away to sea. But landlubbin’ reality just keeps on getting in the way. Still, those Captain Kidd fantasies won’t go gently, so isn’t it great that there’s a safe space to live out your water-logged fantasies in real swashbuckling style? On the first Saturday of the month, at the very end of Hyde Street Pier (a National Park Service sanctuary for historic boats) a diverse crowd of young buffs and old salts gather together for a spirited sing-along, the **Sea Chantey Sing**. The atmosphere is pretty wholesome overall, but still a convivial anarchy reigns supreme. Want to lead a chantey? Go ahead. Want to improvise a harmony line during the chorus? Do it. Want to take a break and tool around the meticulously-restored tall boat *Balclutha* where the sing is held, cup of hot

cider in hand? Totally encouraged! It’s free. It’s fantastically fun. And this October it’ll be a tradition 30 years young.

First Saturdays of the month, 8 p.m., free, reservations required.  
The Balclutha, Hyde Street Pier,  
2905 Hyde, SF. (415) 561-7171,  
[www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/chantey-sing](http://www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/chantey-sing)

#### BEST SITE-SPECIFIC CLASSICISTS

This year marks the end of **We Players**’ three-year collaboration with the National Parks Service on Alcatraz Island. The project showcased the island’s scenic isolation in a number of artistic and community-building endeavors. The stage company’s 2010 marathon production of *Hamlet* was a tour de force of site-specificity, taking actors and audiences all over the island, including areas normally off-limits to the public. In their imaginative stagings of *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *Iphigenia*, as well as their ongoing art exhibitions for, by, and about incarcerated juveniles and adults, the Players highlight themes of isolation, incarceration, justice, and redemption. They wield their art as a catalyst rather than as nostalgic revival. Their Alcatraz residency ends in the fall. In 2012, it partners with the California Parks Service to stage *The Odyssey* on Angel Island.

[www.weplayers.org](http://www.weplayers.org)

**BEST FRISCO FUSION**

If San Francisco was one big dance floor, **Bayonics** would be its house band. Mission born-and-bred members Pedro Gomez and Jairo Vargas met through the salsa scene

CONTINUES ON PAGE 50 >>

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[SFTHEATERFESTIVAL.ORG](http://SFTHEATERFESTIVAL.ORG)



Best Aerosol Roots: Endless Canvas | PHOTO BY ENDLESS CANVAS

## Arts and Entertainment CONT>>

and the youth arts organization Loco Bloco (drummer Gomez, who joined the group when he was 12, is now its music director). The band incorporated the other sounds of the city: reggaeton, funk, old school Frisco hip-hop, reggae irie. Now with horns, timbales, and three emcees, it packs sweaty venues (and stages) with a diverse sound that could have only come from the Bay. A big band in the era of the iPhone DJ? With a new album, *Mission Statement*, dropping this summer, we bet there's enough Bayonics love in this city to keep the party going.  
[www.bayonics.com](http://www.bayonics.com)

### BEST BARGAIN BEBOP TUTELAGE

What kind of music do young 'uns listen to nowadays? Cheesy Disney tweens? Justin Bieber? Kidz Bop? Start the culture-makers of tomorrow on the road to good taste today by taking them to venerable jazz club Yoshi's — either the Oakland or San Francisco outpost — for the **Yoshi's Children's Matinee**. Certain Sunday early-evening shows offer a special admission rate of five bucks

for kids, with a discount, usually \$15–\$18, for accompanying adults. And while the idea of children learning the finer points of free jazz and bebop makes sense — kids love to improvise — Yoshi's calendar actually factors in just about every genre other than heavy metal (start your tyke down that road with a copy of Black Sabbath). Recent \$5 matinees have featured Hawaiian guitarist Willie K., flamenco guitarist Ottmar Liebert, and vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater's tribute to Billie Holiday.

1330 Fillmore, SF. (415) 655-5600 and 510 Embarcadero West, Oakl. (510) 238-9200, [www.yoshis.com](http://www.yoshis.com)

### BEST HOMEBOY SCRIBE

Awash as it is in traffic-stopping murals and radical neighborhood galleries, the Mission hasn't produced a lot of novels recently from its native sons and daughters. So when born-and-bred Missionite and City College literature professor **Benjamin Bac Sierra**'s debut effort *Barrio Bushido* turned out to be a magical realistic, drug-and-violence-driven, sophisticated lyrical achievement, the 'hood rejoiced in its son. Bac Sierra's readings at Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts turned out a capacity crowd, and a retinue of candy-painted,

hydraulic-powered low-riders lined the curb outside. With Bac Sierra as a role model, maybe the barrio won't have to wait long for another of its own to follow suit and publish something great.  
[todobododown.wordpress.com](http://todobododown.wordpress.com)

### BEST DARKWAVE EMBRACE

"Dark is the new light!" raves one online fan of San Francisco bleak-star rockers **the Soft Moon**. Outfit leader Luis Vasquez does double duty on conga and synth in Oakland-SF band, the Lumerians, weaving a sparkling, seething thread of exotica into that combo's tropi-psych mind-meld. But the Soft Moon is where Vasquez chooses to tread darkly, venturing into an extremely chilled, vaguely menacing, yet exquisitely goth-derived and highly synthesized future. Rest assured, the way comes black-iced with '80s-era shivers and intimations of Krautrock. Armed live with driving beats, bat cave echoes, and stabbing black-and-white visuals, Vasquez and Co. are the Bay's prime entries in the "darkwave" wave that's been sweeping underground dance floors. The Soft Moon released its self-titled debut on Captured Tracks in 2010. Next stop — your shattered earbuds.  
[www.myspace.com/thesoftmoon](http://www.myspace.com/thesoftmoon)



## BEST KARAOKE PROUSTIAN

The continued karaoke tyranny of Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" induces revulsion on the order of Barney's theme song. Now one fine man, maverick karaoke DJ **Roger Niner**, has taken a stand for all of us against the song's monopoly. The wildly costumed, wildly fun Niner levies a \$5 tax for its use, and uses the extra cash to buy more songs for his collection. Niner can usually be found at the

Parlor near Fisherman's Wharf on Wednesdays, San Mateo's Swingin' Door on Thursdays and Fridays, and SoMa's Butter on Sundays. Ever the intellect, his website quotes Marcel Proust: "Detest bad music but do not despise it. As it is played, and especially sung, much more passionately than good music, it has much more than the latter been impregnated, little by little, with man's tears."

[www.rogerniner.com](http://www.rogerniner.com)

## BEST "HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS"

In 2010, Bay Area performance artist and provocateur Philip Huang bucked the notion of institutionalized artistic legitimacy and challenged his friends to stage performances in their own homes. "We can legitimize ourselves," his manifesto promised, calling the welfare state of professional arts organizations a "crock of shit."

CONTINUES ON PAGE 52 >>

## BEST OF THE BAY 2011 *Beautiful Rebels*

PHOTO BY PAT MAZZERA



## BEST SOUL SMOOCH

How do you breathe freshness into a queer club scene exhausted by ironic electro-pop distance, 1980s retro-fetishism, and a glut of "meh"-quality disco worship? The nubile young things of **Hard French** discovered one way that has met with instant success: take the music back, *waaay* back. Vinyl '50s and '60s soul, R&B, and Motown are served up on this insanely colorful monthly daytime patio-party's platters. DJs Brown Amy and Carnita, along with co-promoters Devon Devine, Tina

Faggotina, Jorge P., and Amos G., pack El Rio with a festive spirit that celebrates fierce old-school style. In this age of mainstream gay integration, if not downright assimilation, it's fascinating that alternative queer types are celebrating the music of another time of mass integration and civil rights extension. But beyond the cultural implications, Hard French is one wig-flipping, tongue-entangling hoot. First Saturdays, 3 p.m.-8 p.m., \$7. El Rio, 3158 Mission, SF. [www.hardfrench.com](http://www.hardfrench.com)

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ASSC & Board Sports Charity Paddle Board  
Race for Midway Shelter of Alameda

Saturday, August 6, 2011  
Blues Bazaar  
Papa's Garage (Rock) 5pm-7pm  
Open Retail Fair

Saturday, August 13, 2011  
A-Town Hip Hop  
Bop City Pacific (Rock) 5pm-7pm  
Hip Hop Band Open Mic at 4pm

Saturday, August 20, 2011  
GLEE Weekend Back-to-School  
Bay Area Girls (Cover Band) 5pm-7pm  
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Saturday, August 27, 2011  
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Saturday, September 3, 2011  
Labor Day Weekend  
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## Arts and Entertainment

CONT>>

One year later, the all-volunteer, thoroughly-DIY **Home Theatre Festival** spanned the globe, with scheduled performances on four continents. The premise is simple: without paying hundreds of dollars to a venue for overhead expenses, artists can charge \$8 at the door and still walk away with some profit, while audiences get to experience an intimately staged performance without an institutional filter. Whether home theater can or should replace all professional art space is up for debate, but it's nice to be reminded that ultimately the art, not the venue, matters most. philiphuangpresents.blogspot.com



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I love the Civic Center poet girl Pam  
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Mike, Tenderloin

### BEST DOOR GUY IN A LOIN CLOTH

Bouncer-for-hire **Isaac** is a towering figure in San Francisco, standing sentry at all of the top cultural happenings and cool club events. Simultaneously a welcoming presence and one who is not to be trifled with, he can be as cuddly as a teddy bear and as imposing as a grizzly. (Although he artfully and subtly conveys his grizzliness without feeling a need to menace or provoke.) Simply by being who he is — a big bearded guy in a loincloth who seems to know everyone — his presence validates the cultural cred of any event, and ensures you'll find the entertainment you're looking for therein. As a veteran performer with Fireside Storytelling, he may even provide some of it.

### BEST SPIRIT-RAISING TWIRL

Imagine yourself traipsing through Golden Gate Park one sunny afternoon when the sound of the great Sylvester's "Can't Stop Dancing" tugs you by the ear toward the AIDS Memorial Grove. There you spy doz-

ens of human butterflies, fluttering and whirling in the breeze as a DJ turns them out. Drawn by your fascination, you enter the fray, pick up a couple of psychedelic-patterned pieces of fabric, and begin to twirl with abandon. You're floating with **Flagging in the Park**, the charitable monthly afternoon flood of queer love, put on by personal trainer Xavier Taylor and friends. Like fan-dancing, flagging (dancing with weighted pieces of fabric) is a decades-old gay dance floor tradition that has taken on a spiritual edge, calling up the memories of those affected by AIDS and drawing the blessing of our own spiritual godmothers, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. It's also simply fabulous. Sat/30 and monthly, 1 p.m.–4 p.m., free (donation requested), AIDS Memorial Grove, Golden Gate Park, SF. Facebook: Flagging in the Park

### BEST SHOEGAZERS ON THE BLOCK

The distortion burns. The reverb uncoils in snakey moans. And the rubbery bass and authoritative tom push forward, ever forward, in the hands of vocalist-bassist Shaun Durkan, guitarist Kevin Johnson, and drummer Abe Pedroza of **Weekend**. Formed just a year after the shoegaze pioneers of My Bloody Valentine made their way to San Francisco once more to play the hulking and reverberant Concourse, Weekend's three unassuming childhood friends have managed to reform that cavernous shoegaze sound into something closely held and intimate, yet sweeping in its reach and tremulous with contemporary possibilities. The threesome's first full-length album *Sports* (Slumberland, 2010), droned like 1990s post-punk yesterday once more — careening like a loud, unforgettable dream. End times have rarely sounded so breezy, so good.  
[www.myspace.com/weekendmusic](http://www.myspace.com/weekendmusic)



**Best 'Picks of Passion:** Rolling Through the Bay

PHOTO BY LUIGI ANZIVINO © EXPLORATORIUM

#### BEST WORD OF LAW

Gone are the days when poetry readings were confined to the dimly lit coffee shops, public libraries and beat bars of urbania. San Francisco being one of the world's meccas for all things literary, we word-worshipping denizens hardly bat an eyelash when we hear of something like the regular **poetry readings at Tony Serra's law offices** on Pier Five. Serra, who has made a career defending and championing society's outcasts by expressing "the poetry of the law," has been holding such events for three years, usually with a theme attached and a lively crowd attending. This year included poetry events celebrating Native American culture and the great, lost deserts of America. 506 Broadway, SF. (415) 986-5591, [www.pier5law.com/j-tony-serra](http://www.pier5law.com/j-tony-serra)

#### BEST READY-MADE ROCK BAND

The Byrds drawled it best: So you wanna be a rock 'n' roll star? Then listen now, to what I say. Thanks Jim McGuinn, we'll take it from here. Or rather, **Blue Bear School of Music's band workshops** will. The school sets groups of about seven beginner-level musicians to practice cover songs (genres range from rock to country) for three months with a very patient

teacher before they perform at Café Du Nord or Bottom of the Hill. Just don't let it go to your head. Back to McGuinn: the money, the fame, and the public acclaim. Don't forget what you are, you're a star.

Building D, Fort Mason Center, SF. (415) 673-3600, [www.bluebearmusic.org](http://www.bluebearmusic.org)

#### BEST SIXTH STREET SENSE

Does growing up in San Francisco make you an insider in its art scene? Definitely not — but it can be fertile ground for creating a scene of one's own. Sixth Street resident and Filipino immigrant Reynaldo Cayetano Jr.'s passion for film photography led him to convene **Inks of Truth**, an art collective of young City College students and SF natives. The group has thrown packed multimedia art openings with live local hip-hop soundtracks all along Sixth Street — Rancho Parnassus, the House Kombucha factory, and Bayanihan Community Center. This year, group members got the keys to DA Arts, the one-time SF district attorney's office, whose walls they have lined with stunning black and white photography of life on Sixth Street.

DA Arts, 135 Sixth St., SF. [www.wix.com/purposebeyondreach/inksoftruth](http://www.wix.com/purposebeyondreach/inksoftruth)

#### BEST ALL PEDAL EVERYTHING

This year, in the interest of a more sustainable diet, Mark Zuckerberg started only eating animals he personally killed. Sure, Zuck can afford to slay a steer or 20, but he raises interesting questions about our individual consumption patterns. The expanding **Bicycle Music Festival** has been experimenting in this very



concept as it relates to the live music fest. This year a free all-day, all-night outdoors affair featuring more than 12 bands and performing groups took place in two different city locations — with a three-piece band and opera singers performing while the entire festival biked from one site to the other. Powered by volunteers on generator-bikes — which occasionally

CONTINUES ON PAGE 57 >>

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[www.LoveAfterParty.com](http://www.LoveAfterParty.com) // [www.sflovevolution.com](http://www.sflovevolution.com)

## Arts and Entertainment

CONT'D >>

lost their charge — attendees learned a lot about party-time energy costs. [www.bicyclemusicfestival.com](http://www.bicyclemusicfestival.com)

### BEST SCARY CLOWN TOWN

This could also be titled “worst place to go after you ingest hallucinogens,” but hell, don’t blame **Playland-Not-At-The-Beach** for its slightly creepy-carny vibe. Blame the former first lady of San Francisco’s seaside: Laughing Sal,

the legendary Playland attraction with the unforgettable ghoulish guffaw. A version of Sal keeps her eye on the joint, which is tucked into an unassuming El Cerrito building concealing a stuffed-to-the-gills treasure trove of Playland history. Other attractions include side show and circus artwork, modern pinball machines, and some incredibly elaborate dioramas — everything from a frosty, candy-laden “Santa’s Village” to the awesome “Dark Mystery,” featuring a zombie scene and a cows ‘n’ aliens vignette. 10979 San Pablo, El Cerrito. (510) 592-3002, [www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org](http://www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org)

### BEST MAKE-SHIFT TO DIY CULTURE

From sand tapestries to cupcake cars, soap-making to 70-foot sculptures of spinning stone and steel, Make Magazine’s **Maker Faire** proves that people can make some cra-zay shit when they’re given the proper encouragement and place to show it off (and warehouse space). The event has gained a reputation for being like Burning Man — only with less dust and fun fur. This year, it featured the work of more than 600 makers, rendering the San Mateo County Event

CONTINUES ON PAGE 58 >>

## BEST OF THE BAY 2011 *Beautiful Rebels*

PHOTO BY STEPHEN HERALDO



### BEST POP-UP EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE

This spring, a couple of 25-year olds started paying rent on a Market Street storefront. Sam Haynor and Will Greene wanted to use the space to host 100 days of community-generated events and classes. It was a wacky plan, but its implementation proved that tedious grant applications and red tape are not prerequisites for community creativity. The Schoolhouse (as they dubbed the

storefront) and the project, **100 Days of Spring**, gave birth to cooking classes, music video shoots, yoga sessions, and sewing circles. More important, it quietly created a hangout for young, old, housed, and unhoused neighbors and San Franciscans. The 100 days are over, but the possibilities they generated — we hope — are just beginning. [www.100daysofspring.com](http://www.100daysofspring.com)



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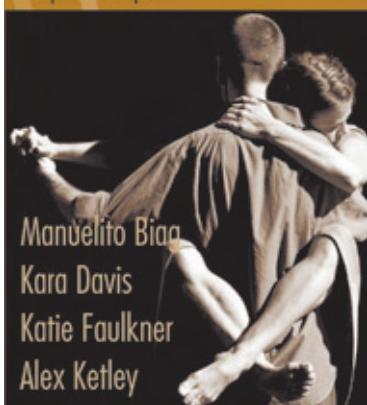
Party is 21+ as there will be a bar.

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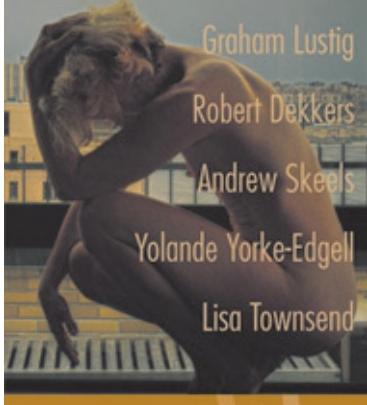
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[westwavedancefestival.org](http://westwavedancefestival.org)  
1 - 866 - 55 - TICKETS



## Arts and Entertainment

CONT>>

Center into a hand-woven, hydraulic-powered, homegrown healthy bacteria-sprouting maze of maker magic. The fair was also celebrating its fifth year in action (the East Bay edition of the fair takes place Oct. 16 in Oakland), having already turned on

thousands to the joys of tinkering. [www.makerfaire.com](http://www.makerfaire.com)

### BEST SINGLE-FILE STYLE

If bikes are ever going to live up to their potential as game-changers in the world's consumption of fossil fuels, their proponents are gonna need smarts, heart, and damn if they're not gonna need style as well. Luckily, Tyrone "Baybe Champ" Stevenson Jr. has all three covered. The Oakland

cyclist started decorating his two-wheelers with flashy strips of foil, elaborate sound systems, and kitschy corporate logos, sparking a movement that now claims a hip-hop video with more than 3 million hits on YouTube, a dedicated East Bay youth massive, and a world of imitators. The **Original Scraper Bike Team** holds head-turning single-file group rides through its neighborhoods and has become a

bike advocate on par with few. Broke environmentalists everywhere can jam with OSBT anthem: "My bike rides/Don't need no car." [originalscraperbikes.blogspot.com](http://originalscraperbikes.blogspot.com)

### BEST (SWAG) TWITTER (SWAG) RAPPER (SWAG SWAG)

Hey **Lil B**, we don't get you — which is crazy because you're blowing up our Twitter feeds, clogging YouTube

with your endless mixtapes and party tracks, and inspiring kitchen dances and gratuitous catchphrases (#swag, #based, #rare) — or rather, repetitive outbursts you insert into your hooks and tag all over aforementioned feeds like there's no tomorrow. You'd think we'd all have the material necessary to formulate a theory, or something. But then we listen to your 2010 album *Rain in England*, whose songs lay your spoken word ruminations on dreams and feminine beauty over soothing ambient aural waves. Don't even get us started with this year's *I'm Gay* album-brouhaha. And you're from Berkeley? #Complex. [www.basedworld.com](http://www.basedworld.com)

### BEST HOW SOON IS NOW

Smiths-mania is an admirable torment that afflicts any teen worth her salt who craves morosely literate lyrics paired with driving, jangly melodies. It can continue to affect its victims well into adulthood, too — from nostalgic Gen-Xers who slip on *Meat is Murder* when the sky is gray and the black dog is growling softly, to folks like author Simon Goddard, whose *Mozipedia* meticulously breaks down the particulars of every song the 1980s British group recorded. Another work of genius that a feverish Smiths obsession has engendered?

**Janice Whaley's The Smiths Project.**

The Bay Area singer produced a six-CD, 71-song a cappella recreation of the melancholic Mancunians' entire catalog — in one year. The ingeniously layered beauty of Whaley's voice fills in all the parts of classics like "How Soon is Now" and "The Queen is Dead." But all the ache of the originals remains.

[thesmithsproject.blogspot.com](http://thesmithsproject.blogspot.com)

### BEST PUBLIC WORK (DANCE VERSION)

San Francisco is a global center of house and techno, and despite lacking the vibrantly extra-legal underground scene of other cities like Berlin, Philadelphia, or (closer to home) Oakland, it has always retained a handful of winning clubs that could host a killer party or two. But in the past five years, there's been an explosion of dance music output — and dance music interest. Today there are just as many in-demand DJs as there are touring indie bands. For a while it seemed as if San Francisco wouldn't be able to handle the flood, providing the required sound quality (expensive) at the right door price





**Best Darkwave Embrace:** the Soft Moon | PHOTO BY SANTIAGO GIRALDO

(affordable), while shunning annoying VIP vibes. So when a number of longtime nightlife freaks got together and opened a space last year with the right raw feel, kickass sound system (state-of-the-art Funktion One), and dedication to the funds-challenged community, San Franciscans breathed easy and got sweaty. The consistently stellar lineups and innovative charitable programming at [www.rebeccasolnit.com](http://www.rebeccasolnit.com) SFBG

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161 Erie, SF. (415) 932-0955,  
[www.publicsf.com](http://www.publicsf.com)

**BEST ATLAS OF OURSELVES**

We couldn't pass it around fast enough. **Rebecca Solnit's Infinite City**, the SF intellectual's cartographic wonderpiece of Bay Area history and emotion, swept a large part of the Guardian staff off our feet, so pleased were we by its 22 out-of-the-box renderings of the hills and valleys we work and play on. Sites of gay struggle superimposed with the natural habitats of butterflies; a comparison of how identities shift (in this case, Solnit's and Mission District performance artist Guillermo Gomez Peña's) between neighborhoods like Pac Heights and the Sunset — a city can't be defined by Muni maps alone. Solnit's book, which features deeply researched essays to accompany each map, showed us new roads toward understanding the Bay Area.

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[www.fogcitynews.com](http://www.fogcitynews.com)

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[www.levideo.com](http://www.levideo.com)

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**Rainbow Grocery**  
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[www.rainbowgrocery.org](http://www.rainbowgrocery.org)

### BEST CLOTHING STORE (WOMEN)

**Ambiance**  
Various locations, SF.  
[www.ambiancesf.com](http://www.ambiancesf.com)

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**Sui Generis**  
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[www.suigenerisconsignment.com](http://www.suigenerisconsignment.com)

### BEST CLOTHING STORE (KIDS)

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[www.shoebizsf.com](http://www.shoebizsf.com)

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[www.thearktoys.com](http://www.thearktoys.com)

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**Box Dog Bikes**  
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[www.petfoodexpress.com](http://www.petfoodexpress.com)

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**Heartfelt**  
346 Cortland, SF. (415) 648-1380, [www.heartfeltsf.com](http://www.heartfeltsf.com)

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[www.sportsbasement.com](http://www.sportsbasement.com)

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## BEST OF THE BAY 2011: EDITORS PICKS

# Shopping



**Best Leather-Scented Time Warp:** Suzanne George | PHOTO BY ARIEL SOTO

### BEST VINYL FLIPPERS

Tweekin Records in the Lower Haight was one of the centers of Bay Area dance music culture for the better part of two decades. But besides the basic insanity of operating a specialty record store in these e-times, the Tweekin brand had gotten a bit ragged over the years. So it was a charge for vinyl lovers when Manny Alferez and crew stepped up for a reinvigoration, unveiling **Black Pancake Records**. Pretty much the same concept reigns: great funk, soul, house, techno, jazz, and even (gasp!) rock records, plus a friendly staff with some primo recommendations. Perhaps best of all, there are a couple of those rarest of beasts — listening stations. Yep, you can put the actual

circular whatsit on the doohickey that spins around and hear it make the music, little Johnny. All without clickety-clicking on the wee mouse-thingy.

593 Haight, SF. (415) 626-6995, [www.blackpancakerecords.com](http://www.blackpancakerecords.com)

### BEST EVERYDAY KAN DO

Peruse the labels of say, a kitty-shaped exfoliating washcloth or exquisitely lacquered bento box at **Ichiban Kan**, and you're likely to see a Good Housekeeping seal of approval-style label trumpeting that the item won a design award in Japan. At times it seems like everything wins a design award in Japan, then the realization sets in that no other country seems to have dedicated itself so fervently to assuring that the everyday things

of life — from paper clips to cooking utensils — be attractive, eminently functional, durable, and well-designed. When we want to load up on the best of the quotidian (we're particular fans of the rolls of plastic wrap for \$1), we come here.

Various locations, [www.ichibankanusa.com](http://www.ichibankanusa.com)

### BEST GEEKDOM: THE GATHERING

It's a constant nerd alert — not that that's a bad thing — at **Cards and Comics Central**, a Richmond District shop where employees know the difference between vine whips and seed bombs and can explain why destroy effects don't harm a cattank. Kids into Yu-Gi-Oh, Pokémon, or Magic will be

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overwhelmed by the shop's vast selection. Parents will be overwhelmed at the price tag — you can spend more than \$100 on a single card, though assorted decks (available for under \$10) might keep the average young collector sated. Check out the back room for the real action — pale adults playing Magic with an intensity you won't find at most Vegas poker tables.

5424 Geary, SF. (415) 668-3544,  
[www.candcentral.com](http://www.candcentral.com)

#### BEST REFILL, NOT LANDFILL

What does it take to win a gazillion green business awards? It certainly starts with a great concept, a seriously vetted supply chain, and a commitment to spreading the eco-word. It also helps to have a pleasing storefront in Noe Valley, cute and eager staff, luscious products, and bulk-store

mania for quill jewelry and hair extensions. Happily, two gentle crafters have taken the torture out of the trend: Erykah Prentice and Martha Hudson started their accessories label **Divine Dandelions** for peace, not plucking. The two create their cascading earrings and fanciful headdresses from foraged feathers, selling them from a sweet little gazebo at festivals up and down the West Coast. If you find yourself Bay-bound during next month's Gaia Festival (up in the hills of Laytonville), you can always check out their Kahlil Gibran-quoting website for custom-made creations.  
[www.divinedandelions.com](http://www.divinedandelions.com)

#### BEST MEMORY TRANSFERENCE

Are your childhood camcorder memories gathering worrisome mildew by the minute? Entrust your VHS-ed precious

Noe Valley Market has great fresh produce, all the neighborhood news, and a real family vibe. Jake and Les rock!

Happy Shopper, Noe Valley

prices without the forklifts and doublewide shopping carts. **Green 11**, launched by married couple Marco Pietschmann and Bettina Limaco and inspired by a Rachel Carson observation ("For the first time in history, every human being is being subjected to contact with dangerous chemicals, from the moment of conception to death."), offers soaps, cleaning supplies, pet food, shampoo, conditioners, and lotions, all ready for your refillable, affordable use. Bring your own containers or put for up a starter container at the store. 3980 24th St., SF. (415) 425-5195. [www.shopgreen11.com](http://www.shopgreen11.com)

#### BEST FAIR FEATHERS

You think your head hurts from the plumage parade that alit on Dolores Park this year? Think of the feather-farm roosters and other avian amigos that have lost their lives to appease the current

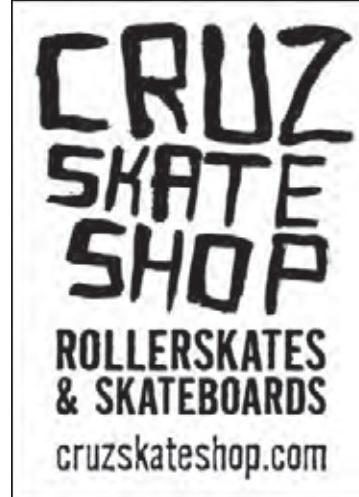
moments to the Mission's **Video Transfer Center** run by Jennifer Miko, a 2008 graduate of the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation and a collaborator with the Image Permanence Institute. Miko, along with husband Buck Bito, boasts some of the best equipment in the biz — including a fancy-pants transfer system for 8mm and Super-8 that the center says is California's first and only. For a small fee, the team will inspect, repair, and transfer your film memories to a digital format that will last forever ... or at least until we figure out brain-to-brain info-beaming.

395 South Van Ness, SF. (415) 558-8815. [www.videotransfercenter.com](http://www.videotransfercenter.com)

#### BEST BUGS BUNNY B-BOY FLASHBACKS

Mission vintage stores tend to cater to your typical high-waisted

CONTINUES ON PAGE 65 >>



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\*Good until August 12th, 2011.

## Shopping CONT>>

jean-clad, chain-smoking-in-front-of-Four-Barrel kind of girl. (We love her!) But **New Jack City** is a breath of fresh hype air. This "throwback goods" outpost at 15th and Guerrero streets specializes in sports gear and B-boy stylings straight from your favorite scene in *Houseparty 2*. Vintage Giants jackets, old school stripes, Bugs Bunny tees of various ages, priceless Afro-centric relics, and breezy

caps repping teams or just plain reppin' . . . Actual 1980s and '90s B-boys (and newer admirers) will feel they never left their Cold Crush Brothers and KRS-One cassettes in their cousin's janky hopty's deck once they step inside.

299 Guerrero, SF. (415) 624-3751, newjackcitysf.blogspot.com

### BEST REASON TO NOT GET OUT OF BED

You know those girls who flounce down 24th Street, vintage pastel print sundresses fluttering over



their kicksy cork wedge sandals, carrying a perfect sexy grandma purse? We know their style secret. Oakland's **Field Day Wearables'** **bedding dresses** are handmade by a crunchy-awesome label that wants to take the disposable out of fashion. They've got pockets and detachable straps that double as a matchy-match headband, and you can find them in patterns from striped to pansied to Batman (yes, they're made from actual sheets). Score 'em at myriad brick-and-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 66 >>

## BEST OF THE BAY 2011 *Beautiful Rebels*

PHOTO BY PAT MAZZERA



### BEST DESIGN FOR ECO O'S

Perhaps you never thought you'd be the type to spend \$125 on a vibrator. Perfectly understandable — but then are you the type to clutter landfills with your fizzled-motor sex toys? SF-based people-pleaser **JimmyJane**, founded by Ethan Imboden, is all about long-lasting relationships with your orgasm aides, which is why it created high design tools like the discreet, everlasting

Little Chroma vibrator, whose rechargeable batteries mean it could be a long, long time before you'll have to (get to?) go to the sex shop again. Because trashy, one-month flings with those cheap dildos can be thrilling, but you — and the environment — might just be ready for the real thing.  
[www.jimmyjane.com](http://www.jimmyjane.com)

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*Shopping* CONT>>

mortar distributing boutiques — or even better, by trying them on over your jeans at one of the craft fairs and street walks where FDW sets up a pretty post. Available at various Bay Area locations. [www.fielddaywearables.com](http://www.fielddaywearables.com)

**BEST SMALL WORLDS  
AFTER ALL**

Apparently all the people who came of age in the late 1960s and early '70s are either dead or too busy filling out Social Security forms to notice that at least one of their cherished craft projects is making a comeback. (No, not candle-splattered Mateus wine bottles or macramé hanging plant slings.) We're talking about terrariums, the terrestrial equivalent of a ship in a bottle. So what if many

G4-era terrarium enthusiasts call them "terrariums"? Their variation on vivarium nomenclature does nothing to diminish the charm of these glassed-in mini-worlds. And particularly high on the charm assessment scale are the creations of the good women of **Studio Choo**, part of Prairie Collective, whose arrangements of tiny ferns, succulents, and other flora inspire full minutes of unbroken, smart phone-free contemplation. Available at Prairie Collective 262 Divisadero. (415) 701-8701, [www.studiochoo.com](http://www.studiochoo.com), [www.prairiecollective.com](http://www.prairiecollective.com)

**BEST BET FOR  
BAROQUE BEAUTY**

You've redecorated your living room, but still something is missing. Could it be? Yes it is — a fuchsia-toned chaise lounge. Do not despair, for we have your marching orders: **SF Antiques**

**and Design Mall.** The 13-year-old Bayview behemoth is something akin to an indoor flea market, and is home to 200 experts in the art of antique, all of whom have booths filled to the brim with fanciful paperweights, glittering heaps of costume jewelry, and ever-so-whimsical seating options. Seriously, if your interior design is hankering for a touch of the over-embellished, a whiff of kitsch, or perhaps a splash of hanging basket chair, you will find it here. 701 Bayshore, SF. (415) 656-3530, [www.sfantique.com](http://www.sfantique.com)

**BEST FASHION SHRINE**

Natural wooden tables, colorful blankets spread here and there, a goat's head staring placidly down on wonder-covered shelves — Hayes Valley's **Reliquary** could be a gaucho explorer's treasure room. And — minus the gaucho part —

CONTINUES ON PAGE 68 >>

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David Campos, Supervisor, District 9 • Mario Yedidia, Director, Youth Commission\*  
Pecolia Manigo, Coleman Advocates  
\*For identification only

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## Shopping

CONT>>

that's pretty much what boutique owner Leah Bershad has created it to be. Bershad stocks the year-old space with crafts and vintage finds from all around the country, plus Europe and — in the case of some elaborate bead-and-quilt satchels stacked near the counter — Afghanistan. The store's racks of secondhand embroidered dresses and its smattering of designer wear like high-waisted Court denim

mean that, as far as fashion church goes, Reliquary lives up to its name: a container for sacred relics. 537 Octavia, SF. (415) 431-4000, [reliquarysf.tumblr.com](http://reliquarysf.tumblr.com)

### BEST PLACE TO BUY

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If you've ever spent an afternoon wistfully clicking your way through the Craigslist "free" section — pondering all you could do with an extra this or that — you've

sampled a certain seductive sweet taste. Beware: the **California Materials Exchange** is crack to Craigslist's cocaine. It's eBay on steroids, Urban Ore for colossi. A state-sponsored recycling program, CalMAX facilitates the transfer of bulk, odd, and industrially useful products for wholesale and discount rates, and sometimes for free. So, looking for extra cubicles? How 'bout a free 1000-gallon asphalt-emulsion tank? Or 7,500 pounds of apparel, including 300 women's black twill pants miss-

## BEST OF THE BAY 2011

### Beautiful Rebels

PHOTO BY FRANCESCA BALAGUER



### BEST 'FITS FOR FESTIVATING

Ah, **Miranda Caroligne** — how your sumptuous reconstructed fashions roil our Burning Man memories, our flounces down the Black Rock City promenades attired as the Bay Area peacocks that we are in your whorls and tiers of colorful textile. You've run an eponymous boutique and Trunk, the one-time Lower Haight collective we so dearly miss. At one point, you

even soothed spines and kick-started lazy muscles as a physical therapist. Perhaps that's why your recycled fabric dress designs (now available custom-made) give us a twinkling, happy flush. Or maybe we're having an acid flashback. Either way, we're stoked for the next time you craft us up a fun festie 'fit.

[www.mirandacaroligne.com](http://www.mirandacaroligne.com)



ing only the waist button? That'll cost you a paltry 10 grand, but for someone with a plan — and a lot of storage — it could be just the thing.

[www.calrecycle.ca.gov/CalMAX](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/CalMAX)

#### BEST SHOP FOR THE SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS STITCH

A sobering fact: your clothes were probably made in a sweatshop (sorry). Most of our industrially produced togs — you are probably aware — are made by people

school art with pride — snazzing up placards with over-the-top fonts, providing elegant window signage for boutiques and restaurants, crafting appetizing menu boards, even revamping your Victorian with a gilded transom. Founder Damon Styer and crew have also branched out into the gallery scene: a recent art show at Guerrero Gallery featured work by present and past New Bohemia staff. The vintage feel, handmade aesthetic, and design-addict cache — New Bohemia's products have

is geared toward creating serious conceptual models for industrial design and product development, but that doesn't make the idea of an accessible foam-based 3-D modeling studio any less awesome. 32 Shotwell, SF. (415) 552-5577, [www.foammonkeys.com](http://www.foammonkeys.com)

#### BEST SONIC SAFARI

Deep in the thick of the taque-

rias, bodegas, butcher shops, and joyerias of 24th Street dwells this exotic little shopping outpost for fearless cultural adventurers. **Explorist International** captain Chris Dixon (known on assorted music bills as Phengren Oswald) lets his collector come out to play here, sharing new and used recordings of global party riddims, heady jazz, weird old

folk and country blues, and various unclassifiables — as well as art books, micro-run zines, and McSweeney's volumes. The record bins are where the real action is, though: Moondog vinyl canoodles with Sperm Walls rarities, and Charlie Nothing crashes with the Indonesian prog and funk

CONTINUES ON PAGE 70 >>

You never walk into Loved to Death  
with an idea of what you want,  
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knew you needed. From taxidermy to  
last rites kits, it's a San Francisco gem.

Adventurous, Haight Ashbury

making far from decent wages, working with toxic, health-shattering dyes. Small wonder then that local fiber movements are beginning to stitch. Visit Oakland yarn shop **A Verb For Keeping Warm**

to be indoctrinated. Owner Kristine Vejar sells an in-house line of local fibers and natural dyes, and stocks other brands as well. Plus she gives classes on the skills you need to clothe yourself sustainably and hosts free sewing nights to develop community among people who purl — responsibly.

6328 San Pablo, Oakl.  
(510) 595-8372,

[www.averbforkeepingwarm.com](http://www.averbforkeepingwarm.com)

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even been salivated over in The New York Times — seem a perfect sign of our local, small-batch, skill-appreciative times.

281 Ninth St., SF. (415) 864-7057, [www.newbohemiasigns.com](http://www.newbohemiasigns.com)

#### BEST PROTOTYPES (PRIMATE OR OTHERWISE)

The website of the **Foam Monkeys** concept modeling studio has an "awards" section that admits, "While we can't honestly recall Foam Monkeys ever actually being mentioned for an award, the company has certainly been a part of many award-winning product development teams." But we're giving the company itself a real, bona fide Best of the Bay to boast about. Why? Because! Here you can not only construct a polyurethane primate, but also all sorts of useful stuff — like prototypes for everything from MacBooks to microchips. Sure, the company

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## Shopping CONT>>

of Those Shocking, Shaking Days. Would we like to snag that vinyl copy of *Luk Thung: Classic and Obscure 78s from the Thai Countryside?* Yes, Dr. Livingstone, we would indeed. 3174 24th St., SF. (415) 400-5850, [www.exploristinternational.com](http://www.exploristinternational.com)

### BEST CHEAP PLACE TO SCORE A CUP AND A CONRAD

Literature and coffee: such sweet, sweet dependencies. Enable both on the cheap at **Reader's Café**. Inconspicuous to those on a casual Fort Mason stroll, this used book treasure trove on the bay is infinite and grand once found. With \$20, it's possible to take home a few written works (some only \$1!) and still have change for indulging in a custom-brewed cup of Blue Bottle. Reader's is a production of the San Francisco Friends of the Library, so not only does each

purchase soothe the DTs, it's for a good cause.

Building C, Room 165, Fort Mason Center, SF. (415) 771-1076, [www.readerscafe.org](http://www.readerscafe.org)

### BEST PARTNER IN PREUSED PURCHASE

In a perfect world, each visit to **the Apartment** would be a leisurely half-day treasure hunt. The Mission District store is packed with vintage furnishings, boxes of old family photos and 1960s magazines, even a \$1 tray for affordable finds. No plywood or cheap IKEA stuff here — everything on offer is well maintained and crafted. Of course, that quality comes with some heft, but if you've fallen in love with a cedar armoire when you were supposed to be on the hunt for a throw rug, the Apartment will pay for its delivery: \$65 plus \$10 for every flight of stairs it must ascend to your door. So accommodating! 3469 18th St., SF. (415) 255-1100

CONTINUES ON PAGE 72 >>



**Best Vinyl Flippers:** Black Pancake Records | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

A black and white photograph showing a person from behind, riding a bicycle. A large, red, textured bag is attached to the rear rack of the bicycle. The bicycle's rear wheel and chain are visible. In the bottom left corner, there is a small QR code.

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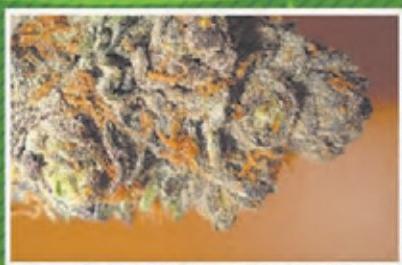


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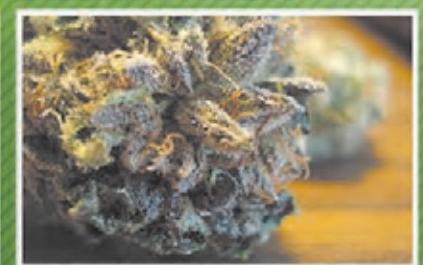
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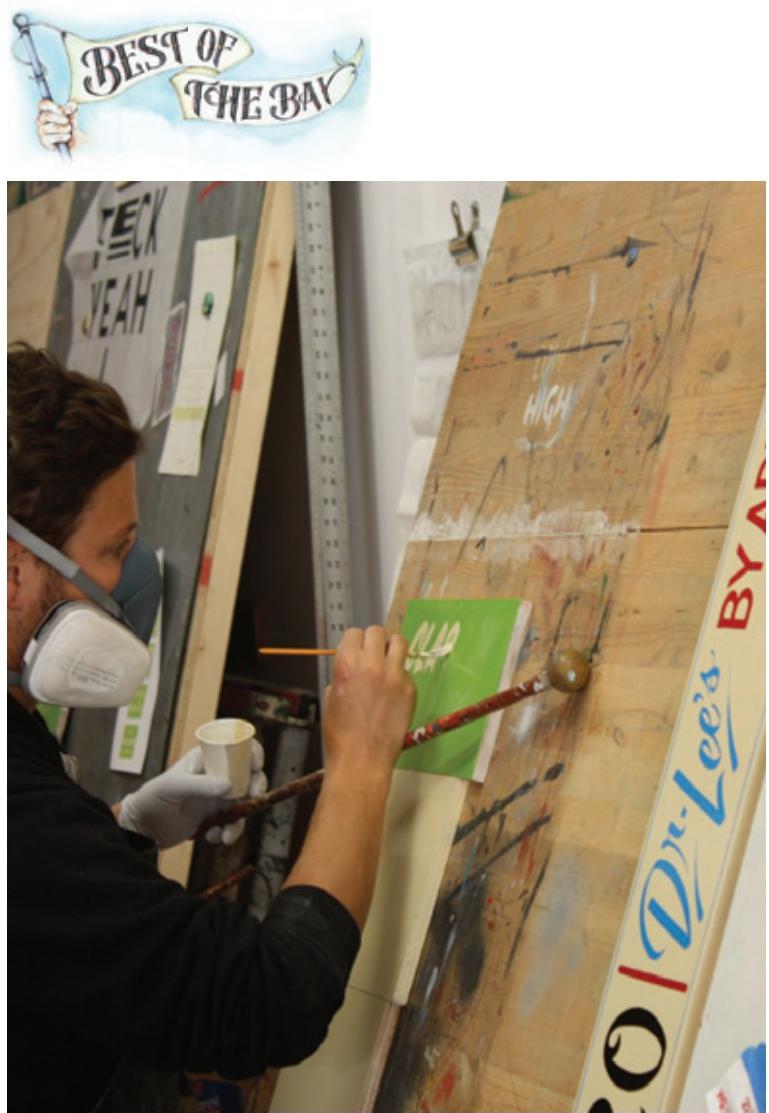
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*Shopping* CONT>>

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1787 Church, SF. (415) 775-1775, [www.suzannegeorgeshoes.com](http://www.suzannegeorgeshoes.com)

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While a marijuana home delivery



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CONTINUES ON PAGE 74 >>

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Best Through The Rabbit Hole: the Sword and the Rose | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

## Shopping CONT>>

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an amber fire, or selling you his house-produced incense, or offering lessons in spellcraft, all while bestowing friendly (if a bit confusing to the uninitiated) guidance to more transcendent realms. First stop: Cole and Carl streets. Next stop: the Divine. 85 Carl, SF. (415) 681-5434

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Jen, San Francisco

tion of Depression-era Americana like shoe shop signs and flag bunting adds to the pleasantly discombobulating *Twilight Zone* feel. Don't worry though; the amiable Big Daddy's staff will guide you through it all.

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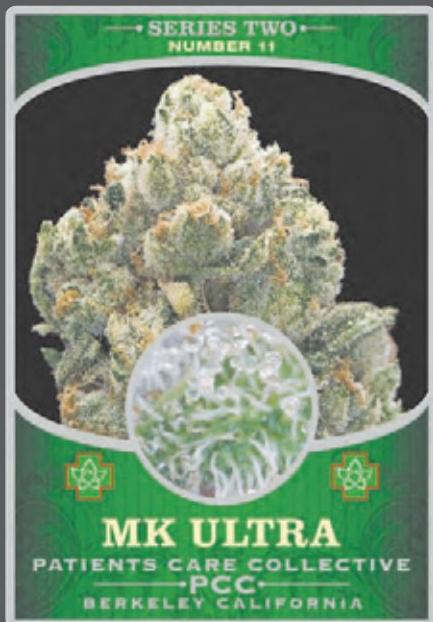
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Best Bugs Bunny B-Boy Flashbacks: New Jack City | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

## Shopping CONT>>

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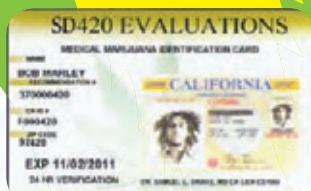
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# GUARDIAN

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN NEWS



Police Chief Greg Suhr (left) and Elvira Pollard (right), mother of another police shooting victim, speak at the heated July 20 meeting at Bayview Opera House. | GUARDIAN PHOTOS BY REBECCA BOWE

## Anger erupts over police shootings

Two recent officer-involved shootings spark protests throughout San Francisco

By Rebecca Bowe  
rebeccab@sfbg.com

As the murky details of two recent police shootings emerge, a palpable anger surging through targeted communities points to a deeper issue than the particular circumstances surrounding each of these deaths. Simply put, many Bay Area communities are fed up with police violence.

For many activists who descended on transit stations to protest the fatal BART police shooting of Oscar Grant III, the 20-year-old unarmed Hayward man who was killed on New Year's Day 2009, an upwelling of rage was rekindled after BART cops shot and killed a homeless man named Charles Blair Hill on July 3 in Civic Center Station.

Then, on July 16, San Francisco police officers in the Bayview shot 19-year-old Kenneth Wade Harding Jr. multiple times after he ran from the T-Third train platform because he'd been stopped for fare evasion, leaving him dead on the sidewalk.

The recent officer-involved shootings occurred under two different law enforcement bodies, and both incidents remain under police investigation with many questions still unanswered. BART police say Hill was brandishing a knife; the San Francisco Police Department

(SFPD) said its response was justified because Harding fired at officers first. The investigation in Harding's case took a bizarre twist July 21 when SFPD issued a press release based on a medical examiner's report stating that Harding had died not from rounds fired by police, but a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

But among communities distrustful of the police, the particulars of each case seemed to matter less than the perception that officers are too quick to escalate conflicts into deadly standoffs. Both incidents provoked intense anger because they resulted in marginalized transit passengers suffering sudden, violent deaths following interactions that were initiated by police. The shootings sparked angry protests, prompting standoffs at Civic Center BART Station, along the T-Third line in the Bayview, on Valencia Street, in Dolores Park, inside the Castro Muni Station, and at the cable car turnaround on Powell Street.

A group of activists staged protests in the Mission following the Bayview police shooting, snaking through the streets as they disrupted traffic and public transit service. "The march began at Dolores Park where nearly 200 of us departed," an anonymous post on the anti-capitalist Bay of Rage website recounted, describing the events of

a July 19 protest that resulted in 43 arrests. "Upon reaching the Castro Muni Station, all hell broke loose.... What had now become a mob moved effortlessly past the bewildered cops ... Trash was set alight and thrown down onto the tracks below ... ticket machines, the fare checkpoints, and the agent booth were all smashed with hammers and flags — totally ruined. Smoke bombs and fireworks were thrown throughout the station."

This display occurred just eight days after protesters shut down BART stations in downtown San Francisco during rush hour to condemn the fatal shooting of Hill, the homeless BART passenger.

The message from outraged Bayview residents at a chaotic and emotionally charged community forum staged July 20 at the Bayview Opera House was not that people were upset that this had happened to Harding, a Washington state resident, in particular. Instead, people expressed outrage that police had gunned down yet another African American youth, and that unless some complicated and long-standing issues were addressed, it could happen again, to anyone. The forum was organized in partnership with the SFPD and clergy members from the Bayview. Police had prepared a PowerPoint presentation, but never managed to get that far.

At the meeting, Police Chief

Greg Suhr tried to provide an explanation for the July 16 shooting. "During this foot pursuit, at some point in time, the suspect ... fired at the officers, and the officers returned fire. This is the account that we have so far," he said. "I cannot tell you how badly that I feel ... as captain of this station for two years," Suhr continued, as an angry crowd shouted him down.

Police escorted Suhr out of the meeting before everyone who had signed up to speak had a chance to be heard. Once outside, the police chief told reporters that he planned to return.

After Suhr and other city officials departed from the meeting, District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen stayed at the Bayview Opera House and addressed the crowd that remained, she later told the Guardian, and engaged in discussion with Bayview homeowners, merchants, and other community stakeholders.

"We had a very thoughtful conversation," she said. "People had questions about [Municipal Transportation Agency] policy over the SFPD riding the bus. We talked about the importance of attending Board of Supervisors meetings, Police Commission meetings, and giving public comment. And there will be future conversations, without obstruction."

CONTINUES ON PAGE 81 »

## THIS WEEK AT SFBG COM

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### ON THE BLOGS

#### POLITICS

- Our ongoing coverage of the Bayview Muni shooting
- Is Chris Cunnie running for SF sheriff?
- Landlords win in cuts to court system
- Introducing the new head of the SF Municipal Transportation Agency



#### NOISE

- Flicks of Soundgarden bringing back the '90s at the Civic Auditorium
- Gael Garcia Bernal + Cheap Trick + cowboy hat = one helluva music video
- Bayonics bring back the big band



#### PIXEL VISION

- Foam party! Sudsy shots from the Dr. Bronner's festival bathtub
- Planking: the good, the possibly racist, and the plain old stupid
- Sean Hurd on Tha Hood Game's parking lot skate park

#### SEX SF

- Amber Schadewald explores Mark Mulroney's sick mind
- More sex events than prom night — better ones, too

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# FRIDAY NIGHTS

Jul. 29 at the de Young



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- > **VIEW** the special exhibition *Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris*.
- > **ENJOY** live Opera with tenor Claudio Santome and DJ La Positiva's musical tribute to Picasso's many muses.
- > **LISTEN** to San Francisco's acclaimed Cypress String Quartet. In the Koret Auditorium at 7pm; tickets and seating are on a first-come, first-served basis. Complimentary tickets are available at 6pm.
- > **WATCH** printmaking demonstrations by Juan R. Fuentes. In the Piazzoni Murals Room from 6–8:30pm.
- > **CREATE** your own Picasso inspired one-line drawing.

Friday Nights at the de Young is part of FAMSF's Cultural Encounters initiative generously funded by The James Irvine Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Columbia Foundation, and the Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation.



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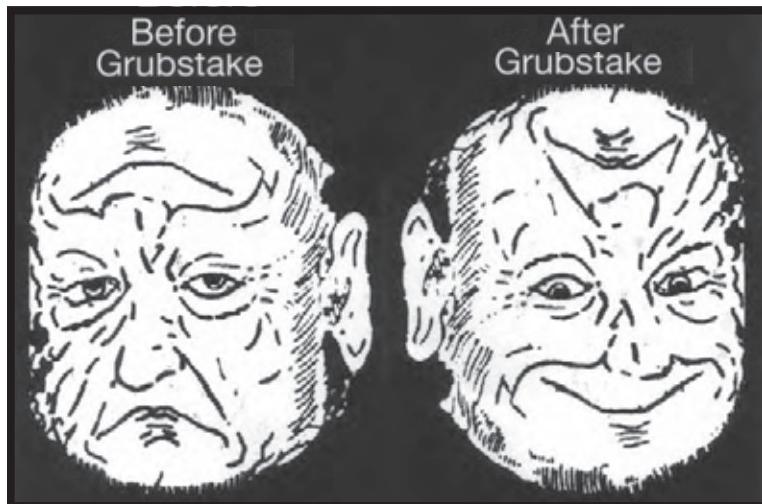
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Cops CONT'D

Many who attended the meeting voiced concerns that went well beyond the July 16 incident. Several said they believed youth were unduly harassed by law enforcement over Muni fares on a regular basis. Elvira Pollard spoke about how her son was shot 36 times by police and killed seven years ago. Another woman complained that police had used abusive language when she was arrested in the Bayview four years ago.

Mayor Ed Lee told the *Guardian* that a bigger police presence at the Oakdale/Palou stop on the T-Third line was part of the city's strategy to prevent violence in that area. "I actually asked the chief to pay more attention to areas that had a history of gun violence and shootings and other kinds of violence ... and it just so happens that this particular area, Third and Palou, is a place where there's a lot of violence," Lee said. "So we had more uniformed officers on that specifically at not only my request, but with the understanding of the police chief, too."

Responding to acts of violence by sending in more police sounds simple enough, yet it seems a toxic environment has arisen out of a heightened police presence in a community where tensions between police and residents already run high, fueled by anxiety and bad past experiences. Add to this dynamic a trend of youth who lack other transportation alternatives riding public transit even if they don't have enough money to pay the fare, and the situation feeds ongoing strife, particularly when fare evaders are asked for identification and searched by police.

Lee, in partnership with Cohen, called a meeting in City Hall July 19 with leaders of the Bayview community. The press was not allowed to attend, but participants said later that officials gave a presentation about the shooting and played an audio of gunfire from the SFPD's SpotShooter program to offer evidence that Harding had fired first. Later that day, the SFPD reported that gunshot residue had been detected on Harding's hand, supporting the police account of what happened.

Yet the July 21 press release, suggesting that Harding had shot himself because a .380 caliber bullet which police said could not have

come from SFPD firearms had entered the right side of Harding's neck, made it less clear what really happened.

By July 22, confusion was still swirling over why a gun hadn't immediately been recovered from the scene of the shooting, and there still wasn't any clarity on whether an online video of a passerby removing a silvery object from the sidewalk showed a person who retrieved Harding's firearm after the shooting, as police have claimed. Police recovered a gun that was initially believed to be Harding's, but later reported that the gun could not have been the same weapon that discharged a .380 caliber round into the victim's head.

Chris Jackson, a Bayview resident who sits on the board of City College of San Francisco and ran for District 10 supervisor in 2010, said after the City Hall meeting that he felt it had amounted to little more than a lecture from the city's top officials. Jackson said he perceived a need for a policy shift in terms of how to deal with fare evasion and violence prevention. "We need a better approach," he said. "We cannot address this with more cops on the T line."

After Harding's death, it came to light that the 19-year-old Washington state man had served time for attempting to promote prostitution, and had been named as a person of interest in connection with the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old Seattle woman. Yet a widely circulated online video showing him writhing on the sidewalk in a pool of blood after being shot, while a handful of officers continued to stand around with weapons drawn, sparked outrage. Once the forum at the Bayview Opera House had broken up, LaDonna Callaway condemned the police response, saying, "They didn't have to shoot him as many times as they did."

Angelique Mayhem, a Bayview resident who stood nearby, told the *Guardian* that she didn't think the meeting had solved anything. "A boy gets gunned down. We don't know if there was a gun there, but we do know that for 40 damn years, people have been getting gunned down in this community," Mayhem said. "People are angrier now than when they were when they walked in the door. We're a community that's truly in pain, that's truly frustrated, and really needs some respect." **SFBG**



## ALERTS

By Jackie Andrews

[alert@sfbg.com](mailto:alert@sfbg.com)

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

## Discussion of contemporary Afghan women

To mark the publication of the book *Land of the Unconquerable: The Lives of Contemporary Afghan Women*, coeditor and sociologist Ashraf Zahedi and contributor Amina Kator discuss this portrait of a misunderstood people. The book features essays from scholars, humanitarian workers, politicians, and journalists who abandon stereotypes or clichés, focusing on the women's struggle for peace and justice instead.

5:30–7:30 p.m., \$5 members/\$10 nonmembers  
Russ Building

235 Montgomery, SF  
[www.imow.org](http://www.imow.org)

## THURSDAY, JUNE 28

## Unsung heroes of U.S. history

This event spotlights the lesser-known Philippine heroes of U.S. history and features stories told by descendants of the Buffalo Soldiers who helped the U.S. win World War II; a discussion of the Filipino farm workers in Delano who fought fair wages and ethical working conditions; and a tribute to Al Robles—SF's Manilatown community leader who was instrumental in the fight against the eviction and demolition of the famed I-Hotel—a refuge for Filipino laborers.

5–9 p.m., free  
Manilatown Center  
868 Kearny  
[www.laborfest.net](http://www.laborfest.net)

## Operation Recovery: Right to Heal tour

Support the Iraqi Veterans Against the War, a nonprofit that fights for adequate medical and mental health care as well as G.I. rights for returning soldiers. The organization is on tour to share their stories while on the road fighting to win veterans "the right to heal." The events also feature musical performances by Ryan Harvey and Nomi.

7–10 p.m., sliding scale donation  
766 Fell, SF  
[www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

## SATURDAY, JUNE 30

## Walk through labor history

Revisit the sites involved in the 1946 strike that was started spontaneously by the mostly women retail clerks at Kahn's and Hastings department stores in Oakland. More than 100,000 workers strong, the so-called "Work Holiday" strike shut down all city commerce for 54 hours. Also, along the way you can learn about the five other general strikes across the U.S. that same year—the year that set the record for the most strikes in our country's history.

10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., free  
Latham Square fountain  
Broadway and Telegraph, Oakland.  
[www.laborfest.net](http://www.laborfest.net) **SFBG**

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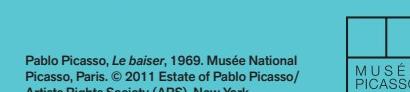
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**GUARDIAN**

# Taking out the trash

Garbage disposal contract headed for approval despite legal and electoral challenges

By Sarah Phelan  
sarah@sfbg.com

A controversial city waste disposal contract appeared primed for final approval by the Board of Supervisors on July 26 (after *Guardian* press time) — despite being challenged by a lawsuit and initiative campaign — after two progressive supervisors rescinded their initial vote in a July 20 committee hearing and supported awarding the contract to Recology.

City staff had recommended awarding the 10-year, \$112-million landfill disposal and facilitation agreement to Recology (formerly NorCal Waste Systems, Inc.), which has grown from a locally based company to the 10th largest waste management firm in the US, with \$652 million in annual revenue, according to *Waste Age* magazine.

If the full board follows the unanimous recommendation of its Budget & Finance Committee, the vote will authorize Recology to transport and dispose up to 5 million tons of the city's solid waste at the company's Ostrom Road landfill in Wheatland, Yuba County. The contract will take effect when San Francisco's disposal agreement at Waste Management Inc.'s Altamont landfill in Livermore expires — estimated to occur in 2015.

The deal will cement Recology's control, at least for a 10-year period, over all aspects of the city's solid waste stream, at a cost of about \$225 million per year, even as the company faces significant challenges, many related to the city's 1932 refuse collection and disposal ordinance.

That law, approved during the Great Depression to prevent conflict between competing garbage haulers, has resulted in Recology's exercising complete control over trash collection and transportation in San Francisco, without having to bid on those contracts or pay the city franchise fees.

During the negotiations over the city's next landfill contract — the only aspect of San Francisco's waste stream put out to bid — this 79-year-old law was invoked to explain why Recology has the sole authority

to transport trash and compostables to Wheatland, which is 130 miles from San Francisco.

The move also comes as Yuba County is contemplating significantly increasing dumping fees at the landfill — from \$4.40 per ton to \$20 or \$30 per ton — a hike that could erase the \$100 million that the Department of the Environment (DoE) claims the Recology deal would save over a competing bid by Waste Management Inc. WM is the largest waste firm in the U.S., according to *Waste Age*, with about \$12.5 billion in annual revenues.



Recology would complete its monopoly over city waste disposal with the latest contract. | GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BEN HOPFER

On July 18, WM filed a lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court to prevent the city from approving the agreements with Recology on the grounds that they violate the city's competitive bid laws.

"The Department of the Environment inappropriately and unlawfully expanded the scope of its 2009 'request for proposal for landfill disposal capacity' and, therefore, violated the city's competitive procurement laws," WM alleges in the suit.

WM has long held that DoE inappropriately issued a tentative contract award for both the transportation and disposal of solid waste to Recology without soliciting any other transportation bids. But DoE, which gleans \$7 million annually (to operate recycling, green building, and

environmental justice programs and long-term planning for waste disposal) from rates that Recology's customers pay, ruled last year that WM's objections are "without merit."

Now WM is asking the court to require DoE to scrap its award to Recology and issue a new request for proposals to comply with competitive bidding requirements.

"There is ample time for the department to issue a new RFP," WM stated July 18, noting that there is plenty of room at its Altamont landfill to accommodate the city's waste after the contract expires.

That same week, a coalition led by retired Judge Quentin Kopp, community activist Tony Kelly, and Waste Solutions CEO David Gavrich announced that it had submitted enough signatures to qualify an initiative on the June 2012 ballot requiring competitive bidding and franchise fees from any company that seeks to win any aspect of the

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NEWS

## Trash CONT.»

Legislative Analyst report recommending that the board consider submitting a proposition to the voters to repeal the 1932 refuse ordinance so that future collection and transportation services be put to bid. The report also recommended that future residential and commercial refuse collection rates be subject to board approval.

But with two progressive supervisors running in citywide elections this fall, and with Recology exerting massive pressure on elected officials, the Kelly coalition could not find four supervisors to place such a charter amendment on the November ballot, forcing them to launch their own initiative.

And at the July 20 meeting of the board's Budget and Finance Committee, Sup. Ross Mirkarimi, who is running for sheriff, and Sup. Jane Kim rescinded their initial decision to send the agreements to the full Board without recommendation. Instead, after the committee had moved on to other business, they joined Chair Carmen Chu, one of the most conservative supervisors, in forwarding the Recology agreements to the full board with unanimous support.

Mirkarimi interrupted the committee's next discussion to rescind the landfill vote. "I think there was some misunderstanding a little bit in wrapping up the landfill agreements with Recology," Mirkarimi said. He said that he asked for the vote to be rescinded, "so we can accurately reflect some of the sentiments being articulated here. I think we just learned some things on the fly."

In many respects, the switch by Kim and Mirkarimi made sense: prior to their initial vote, they made positive statements about the proposed agreements, but also stated an interest in exploring the appropriateness of the city's 1932 law.

"Overall, I think this was a good contract," Kim said. But she noted that, thanks to the 1932 ordinance, the city doesn't get franchise fees. And she claimed that it only gets half of what other Bay Area cities get from their waste contractors. "So, I'm really interested in continuing that conversation, but I think it's a separate conversation," she said.

Mirkarimi said it was his concerns that led the committee to "put a pause" on the Recology agreements until it could "undertake more homework." He also noted that his office

"held a number of meetings" and he tried to "leverage this opportunity to reanimate activity at the Port."

"I was hoping that we might be able to arrive at something much more deliverable," Mirkarimi said, presumably referring to the fact that these efforts resulted in DoE unveiling an amendment to include two "possible changes" to operations and facilities at the Port of San Francisco in the agreements.

These changes involve utilizing other modes of transportation, including barges, as alternatives to the rail-haul plan proposed in the agreement. They also call for developing new facilities at the Port for handling waste, recyclables, organics, and other refuse. The cost of such alternatives would be passed onto the rate payers.

"I think that, cost-effectively, we may be able to insert the Port into this equation, but it's not ready for prime-time yet," Mirkarimi said. He concluded by saying that Recology has been innovative in reducing the city's waste stream.

"This should be a front-burner conversation," Mirkarimi said, noting that former Mayor Gavin Newsom focused on making San Francisco "the greenest city" in the United States. He added that San Francisco claims to have a 77 percent diversion rate, the highest in the U.S., and said, "That comes at a cost, it doesn't come for free."

After the meeting, DoE deputy director David Assmann said that the City Attorney's Office is reviewing WM's filing. "But it's too soon to comment," Assmann said.

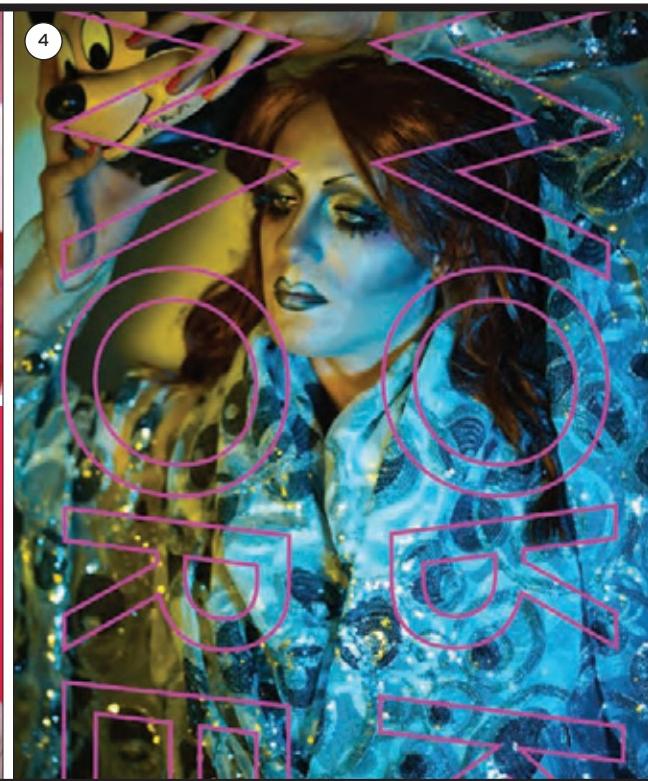
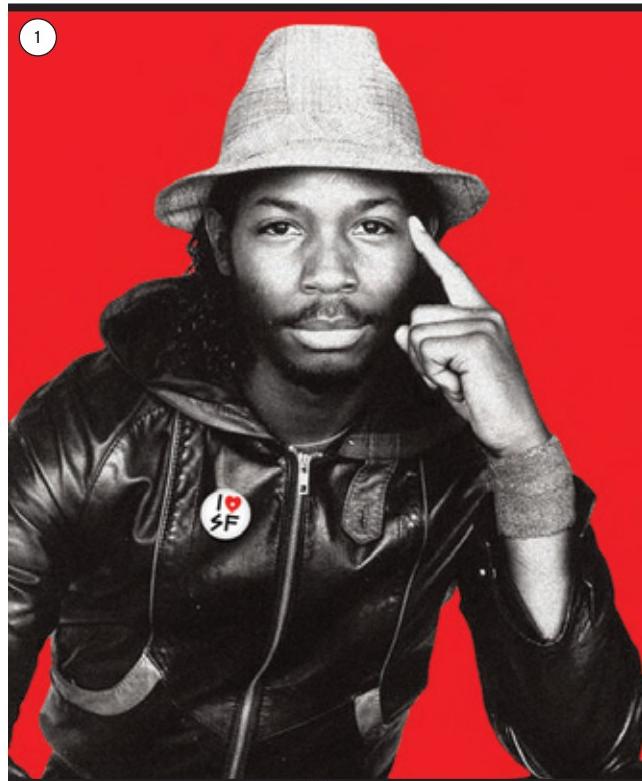
He also claimed that, thanks to the 1932 ordinance, "there was no practical way" for another company to transport San Francisco's waste to its designated landfill, "other than building a second transfer station outside the city."

But Kelly continued to express concerns that the agreements are not competitive, and that the city lacks a contract and ensuing franchise fees. "They are running this as if it's still the 1950s," he said.

Kelly claimed that Recology Vice President John Legnitto, who is the 2011 chair of the SF Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, recently told him that Recology has been in negotiations with City Hall around a \$4 million franchise fee, but that the money would now be spent opposing Kelly's competitive bidding initiative. **SFBG**

# GUARDIAN

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN PICKS



## THURSDAY JULY 28

### FILM

#### "Marker XC: Three Times Thirty"

Chris Marker is a little older than his *nouvelle vague* contemporaries, though you wouldn't know it from his fugitive art. His work is not a career but a universe, one that continues to expand like our own cosmos; at 90, the cat is still grinning. A few minutes of homework on the Internet turns up some of his latest illuminations, but this special birthday tribute focuses on three short films made in years sandwiching 1968, a revolutionary epoch Marker has spent a lifetime observing in quicksilver pasts and futures. Following Marker's lead, the screening is free. (**Max Goldberg**)

7:30 p.m., free  
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### MUSIC

#### Fresh Greens

They don't play Equipto and

Mike Marshall's new booze banger "I Drink Fernet" in SF bars enough. C'mon city — the hook's stuck in our gray matter all day and when we're ready to order a beer and a shot of the herbal stuff, we wanna hear our jam. This is not going to be a problem at this week's installation of Fresh Greens, Showdown's hip-hop and bass night with DJs Mr. Lucky and Doc Fu. The duo has invited DJ Pause, progenitor of said Fernet anthem, to spin that night — and they've coordinated with Fernet Branca to the end that there will be drink giveaways galore. (**Caitlin Donohue**)

10 p.m.–2 a.m., free  
Showdown  
10 Sixth St., SF  
(415) 503-0684  
[www.showdownsf.com](http://www.showdownsf.com)

### MUSIC

#### Steve Arrington

In one of those head-scratching retro confluences that have been popping up on dance floors lately, two quite different soul-stomping records featuring Steve Arrington — his Wonder-full 1985 "Dancing in the Key of Life" solo release and the 1979 "Just a Touch of

Love," recorded with his classic disco-funk outfit Slave — have become local club hits again. Arrington's in the air: the smooth-voiced Ohioan is working on a new album with steamy L.A. squelch-funk revivalist Dâm-Funk. And now here he comes live, helping to celebrate the third anniversary of retro-fun and "contemporary boogie" party Sweaterfunk. Sweat or funk? You'll do both. (**Marke B.**)

9 p.m.–3 a.m., \$15  
Som.  
2925 16th St., SF  
[www.stevearringtonsf.eventbrite.com](http://www.stevearringtonsf.eventbrite.com)

## FRIDAY JULY 29

### MUSIC

#### "Playback: AudioBus"

Every few years, the Soundwave festival inundates the Bay Area with adventurous sonic experiences, like watching tiny solar-powered speakers bloom like flowers on Civic Center trees, or hearing a concrete bunker in Marin reverberate with waves of bass. Missed last year's Soundwave? The Playback series is giving your experi-

ment-hungry ears another chance. This week, hop aboard the double-decker AudioBus (equipped with state-of-the-art Sennheiser headphones) and explore live music scores "routed to the scenery around you." Music plus motion equals magic. Bay Area scratch guitarist the Genie guides you audibly through the Mission on Friday; Christopher Willets, who creates "patterns of vibrations with sound and light" takes over Saturday with a trip through Golden Gate Park. (**Marke B.**)

Fri/29–Sat/30, 7 p.m.,  
\$20–\$200  
Various locations, SF  
[www.me-di-ate.net](http://www.me-di-ate.net)

### MUSIC

#### Mean Jeans

"This song is about the economy. It's called: what the fuck is a 401(k)?!?" The members of Mean Jeans wax philosophical about lots of things, but mostly they stick to partying and its many and varied intricacies. If you think punk has gotten too cerebral over the years and/or are able to argue with authority and aplomb the ups and downs of the different beers you can buy with pocket change, then

Mean Jeans is the band for you. They're the Ramones on speed, a raging house party manifest as a three piece from Portland, Ore. Pogo to your hearts content, just don't tell them or the crowd to chill out and take it easy. It's a punk show, you wimp — have some fun. (**Cooper Berkmoyer**)

With Black Jaspers,  
Guantanamo Baywatch, and  
Teutonics  
9 p.m., \$10  
Thee Parkside  
1600 17th St., SF  
(415) 252-1330  
[www.theeparkside.com](http://www.theeparkside.com)

### PERFORMANCE

#### "Work MORE!"

Eleven drag queens, 165 costume changes, 60 minutes: put it all together and what do you get? One hell of a rendition of "Bohemian Rhapsody." Kidding! (Kinda.) You get one of the most ambitious hours of deconstructed gender illusionism you're likely to see in a while. "Work MORE!," the brainchild of local firebrand VivvyAnne ForeverMORE!, has been a thrilling series of performances that dramatizes the art of drag by blending performance, storytelling, set design, music, and various

challenges reminiscent of *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Drag World*. This installment, running for two nights, calls on 11 performers to direct each other in interchangeable performance numbers — a kaleidoscope of queens engendering an evening-long mosaic of mimicry. And it might go on tour! (**Marke B.**)

Fri/29–Sat/30, 8 p.m., \$20  
CounterPULSE  
1319 Mission, SF  
(415) 626-2060  
[www.counterpulse.org](http://www.counterpulse.org)

## SATURDAY JULY 30

### MUSIC

#### MK at Icee Hot

One of the most astonishing production runs in dance music — or any music, really — occurred when young Detroit producer Marc Kinchen discovered he had a flair for combining cyber-melancholic Detroit techno beats with a soulful New York City garage house vibe. On the strength of his early, driving records, MK soon became one of techno's first big-time remixer: his genius for chopping up a

CONTINUES ON PAGE 88 »

NOISE POP & ANOTHER PLANET ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT  
**TREASURE ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
THE FESTIVAL IN THE BAY



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

Empire of the Sun  
Cut Copy Death From Above 1979  
Chromeo Dizzee Rascal  
Flying Lotus  
Buraka Som Sistema  
Battles The Naked & Famous  
YACHT Shabazz Palaces  
Aloe Blacc Geographer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

Death Cab For Cutie  
Explosions in the Sky  
Beach House The Hold Steady  
Stephen Malkmus & The Jicks  
Friendly Fires St. Vincent  
The Head and The Heart  
Wild Beasts Warpaint The Antlers  
Thee Oh Sees Weekend



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- live music
- dance parties
- art exhibits
- shows
- events

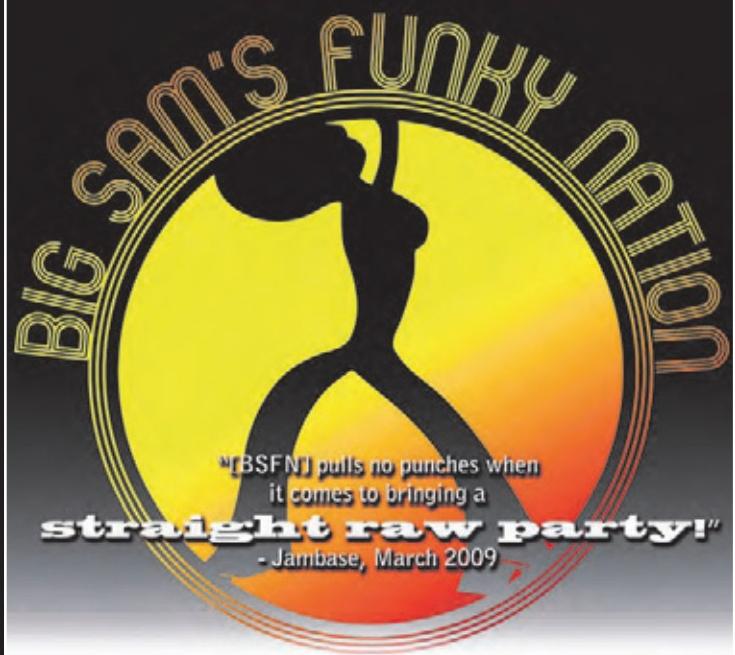
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SAN FRANCISCO

[BEATBOXSF.COM](http://BEATBOXSF.COM)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- THURSDAY 7/28 @ 8PM  
**THE HUGE WHISPER**
- FRIDAY 7/29 @ 10PM  
**RUB – UP YOUR ALLEY**
- SATURDAY 7/30 @ 10PM  
**BIG HOUSE SATURDAY**
- THURSDAY 8/4 @ 9PM  
**MARCUS COHEN & THE CONGRESS**
- FRIDAY 8/5 @ 10PM  
**TEK FREAKS**
- SATURDAY 8/6 @ 10PM  
**I JUST WANNA F\*CKIN' DANCE**
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# DUTCH AND FLEMISH MASTERWORKS

FROM THE ROSE-MARIE AND EJK VAN OTTERLOO COLLECTION



JULY 9–OCTOBER 2, 2011

This exhibition represents one of the finest collections of 17th-century Dutch Golden Age paintings by artists including Rembrandt and Frans Hals. More than 70 works will be on view including portraits and still lifes as well as landscapes and charming scenes of everyday life.

This exhibition is organized by the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, in conjunction with the Mauritshuis, The Hague, and is made possible through generous support from the Richard C. von Hess Foundation, Phoebe Cowles, J. Burgess and Elizabeth B. Jamieson, The Samuel H. Kress Foundation, and the Circle of Friends in honor of Rose-Marie and Eijk van Otterloo. Additional support is provided by the Netherland-America Foundation in honor of Frederik J. Duparc and by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

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Rachel Ruysch (The Hague 1664–1750 Amsterdam),  
*Still Life with Flowers* (detail), 1709. The Rose-Marie  
and Eijk van Otterloo Collection.

From left: MK (see Sat/30); Treasure Island Flea Market (see Sat/30).



## Picks CONT’G

song's vocals into completely different, in most cases more appealing, melodies filled floors from 1991–95. Since then, he's moved on to producing Pitbull and Willow Smith, but he's back to reap underground propensities in the retro-1990's house craze, DJing with equally famous brother Scott and fellow virtuoso vocal-hacker Todd Edwards at the monthly Icee Hot party. (**Marke B.**)

With Scottie Deep and Todd Edwards  
10 p.m., \$10  
Public Works  
161 Erie, SF  
[www.publicsf.com](http://www.publicsf.com)

### EVENT

#### “Livin’ La Vida Lambada”

When I first started writing about Burning Man for the *Guardian* in 2004 — a process that this year culminated in the release of my book *The Tribes of Burning Man* — the two crews that I most deeply embedded myself with were Opulent Temple and the Flaming Lotus Girls. They each work out of the Box Shop on Hunters Point and were just beginning their meteoric rises to become the event's premier fire arts collective (FLG) and more enduring large sound camp (OT). Now, as the FLGs work toward completion of its latest ridiculously ambitious project — Tympani Lambada, a representa-

tion of the inner ear translated into a massive sculpture of sound, fire, and light — the OT DJs, the burner artists of NIMBY, and others are pitching in to help their *hermanas del fuego* reach their goal. So come shake your asses and help bring an amazing artwork to life on the playa next month. (**Steven T. Jones**)

8 p.m.–2 a.m., \$20  
NIMBY Warehouse  
8410 Amelia, Oakl.  
[www.flaminglotus.com/brownpapertickets](http://www.flaminglotus.com/brownpapertickets)

### EVENT

#### Treasure Island Flea Market

Hey, you in the horn-rimmed glasses. You can't really consider yourself a Bay Area vintage freak without making pilgrimages to all the area's flea markets — Candlestick, Alameda, Alemany all rev up our barter skills — and as of Memorial Day this year there's a new kid on the clothing rack-covered asphalt block: the Treasure Island Flea Market, where somewhere among the grassy aisle and hundreds of vendor booths, you are virtually assured of finding something with history and pizzazz. Gadabout spectator shoes, barely-used vintage road bicycles, rusty old bird cages for making garden lanterns — just make sure you can schlep it on the 108 Treasure Island Muni going home. (**Donohue**)

Through Sun/31  
9 a.m.–4 p.m., free  
(415) 898-0245  
[www.treasureislandflea.com](http://www.treasureislandflea.com)

### MUSIC

#### Mattachine Dance Party

Around 2004, when celebrating gay history became all the rage in dance clubs, DJs naturally turned to previously buried disco sounds to accompany the onrush of post-AIDS-era curiosity. But of course gays existed before the 1970s — as recently discovered fossilized size-14 stripper heels and catty hieroglyphics about *Top Chef* judge selection have proved. Young, queer parties have noticed: our own Hard French reaches back to the 1950s for soul inspiration, while New York City's Mattachine Dance Party adds 1960s rock and other queer-eared genres to the mix. Now filmmaker and sexual provocateur John Cameron Mitchell is bringing his buoyant Mattachine affair, named for the U.S.'s first gay rights organization, to El Rio for a special daytime installment that will resurrect the hot-pink spirits of yesteryear. (**Marke B.**)

3–8 p.m., \$5  
El Rio  
3158 Mission, SF  
(415) 282-3325  
[www.elriosf.com](http://www.elriosf.com)

CONTINUES ON PAGE 90 >

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**FRIDAY, JULY 29th**

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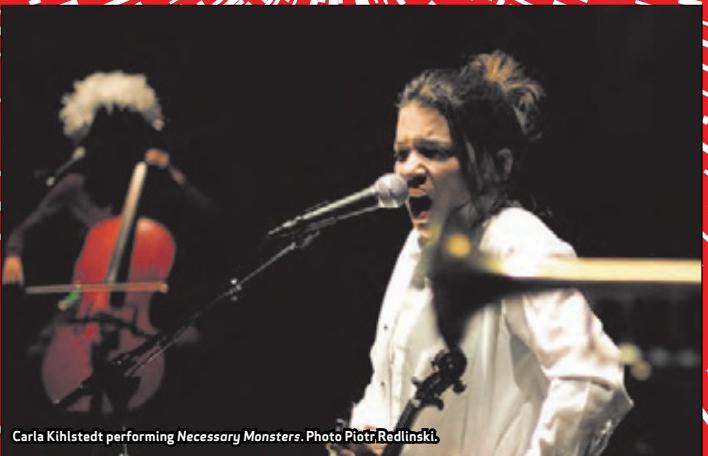
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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ANOTHER PLANET ENTERTAINMENT

# BAN6



IN THE NOVELLUS THEATER, JUL 29 & 30

## CARLA KIHLSTEDT NECESSARY MONSTERS

YBCA is proud to present the west coast premiere of Carla Kihlstedt's *Necessary Monsters*, a contemporary song cycle based on Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges' *Book of Imaginary Beings*.

IN THE GALLERIES & FORUM, JUL 30

## PUSH PLAY >

YBCA will be transformed into a sizzling oasis of visual art, performance, film, music, workshops, cross-disciplinary symposia, food, drink and access to BAN6 artists.

IN THE SCREENING ROOM

## SMUT CAPITAL OF AMERICA

AUG 4: HARD SHORTS

AUG 5: THE MEATRACK

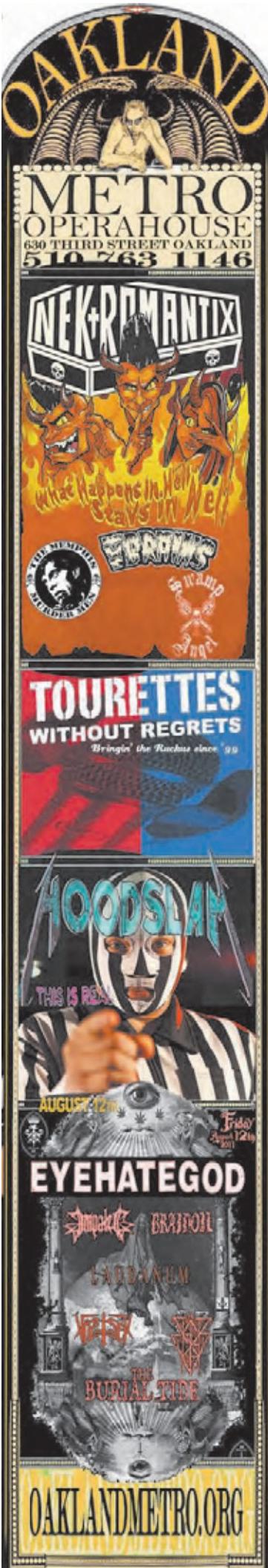
IN THE GALLERIES, THRU SEP 25

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Top, Maria Bamford (see Mon/1); below, Real Estate (see Tues/2).

MARIA BAMFORD PHOTO BY SUSAN MALJAN  
REAL ESTATE PHOTO BY SHAWN BRACKBILL (SEE TUES/2)



Picks CONT.»

MONDAY  
AUGUST 1

### COMEDY

#### Maria Bamford

One-quarter of the dream team *Comedians of Comedy* tour in 2004 (alongside Patton Oswalt, Zach Galifianakis, and Brian Posehn), Maria Bamford is about as unique a comedic personality as they come. She subscribes to the darker, more surrealist side of stand-up, forgoing traditional punch lines to put all her anxieties and neuroses on full-display through self-deprecation, twisted inner monologues, and a ton of barbed vocal impressions that send up her Minnesota-based family and friends. Yet for all her eccentricities, Bamford never delves into novelty or shtick. Her material is always smart, perfectly nuanced, and balanced with enough of her natural Midwest charm to make even the strangest moments relatable. ([Landon Moblad](#))

With Robert Mac and Nato Green  
Through Aug. 3  
8 p.m., \$22.50  
Punch Line Comedy Club  
444 Battery, SF  
(415) 397-7573  
[www.punchlinecomedyclub.com](http://www.punchlinecomedyclub.com)

TUESDAY  
AUGUST 2

### MUSIC

#### Real Estate

The un-Google-able band name. Is it creative combativeness or audacity in the face of technology's encroaching hand that led four like-minded musicians from New Jersey to name themselves Real Estate? Search engines aside, Real Estate isn't an easy band to pin down. Reverb-heavy surf guitar with some folk mixed in begin to paint the picture, but it isn't simply the sum of its parts. It sounds the way a drive to the beach looks: the stucco strip malls race past in a beige blur and soon recede as the scenery grows increasingly lush. Everyone else in the car is talking, but you're too busy staring out the open window to notice. Real Estate is surf rock for city folks. ([Berkmoyer](#))

With Dominant Legs and Melted Toys  
8 p.m., \$15

Independent  
628 Divisadero, SF  
(415) 771-1421  
[www.theindependentsf.com](http://www.theindependentsf.com) **SFBG**

The Guardian listings deadline is two weeks prior to our Wednesday publication date. To submit an item for consideration, please include the title of the event, a brief description of the event, date and time, venue name, street address (listing cross streets only isn't sufficient), city, telephone number readers can call for more information, telephone number for media, and admission costs. Send information to Listings, the Guardian Building, 135 Mississippi St., SF, CA 94107; fax to (415) 487-2506; or e-mail (paste press release into e-mail body — no text attachments, please) to [listings@sfbg.com](mailto:listings@sfbg.com). Digital photos may be submitted in jpeg format; the image must be at least 240 dpi and four inches by six inches in size. We regret we cannot accept listings over the phone.

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GREG EDWARDS • HARMON LEON

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SUN 7/31 7:30PM \$8  
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VERMS

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TUE 8/2 6PM NO COVER  
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MELODIES, & MORE!

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+ dance



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CUBAN  
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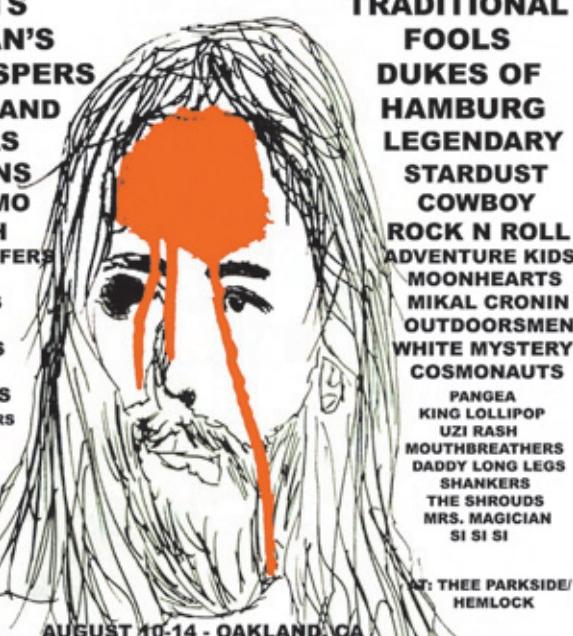
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**UZI RASH**  
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**SHANKERS**  
**THE SHROUDS**  
**MRS. MAGICIAN**  
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**AUDACITY**   **THE TRASHIES**   **WOUNDED LION**  
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JENGO

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JINX COVINA  
DIRKY LUV  
CHUBUT  
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URIN CRAYNE &  
TUT WUH CAN  
THINK YOU MEANS  
DJ QLE,  
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BAND 9 PM  
SHOW 10 PM

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FRI. JULY 29 • DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 • \$15 ADV. / \$15 DOOR  
**MAPS & ATLASES**  
PRINCETON • SISTER CRAYON

SAT. JULY 30 • DOORS 10 PM • \$15 ADV. / \$15 DOOR  
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FRI. AUG. 5 • DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 • \$15 ADV. / \$15 DOOR  
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Steve Taylor band  
Benyaro  
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SAT JUL 30th

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**YEMEN BLUES**  
MON AUG 1st doors 7:30 \$15 GA \$50 VIP

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REVIVAL SOUND SYSTEM doors 8:30 \$25  
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**MICKEY HART BAND**  
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TUE 8/9/ DOORS 7:30/ \$20  
IMELDA MAY  
WED 8/17/ DOORS 10PM/ \$20  
SF SKETCHFEST PRESENTS:  
REGGIE WATTS  
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AND EDDIE IFFT!  
**EDDIE IFFT**  
CRAIG ANTON, EDWIN LI

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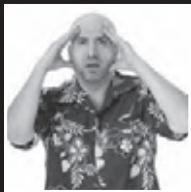
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JULY 28-31  
RICHARD LEWIS  
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From "The Hughleys"



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"KING OF KING'S"  
DJ'S SMOKE ONE & JAH YZER

7.31 ROCKSTAR KARAOKE  
SIGN UPS 8PM • FREE

8.2 JULIO BRAVO  
LIVE SALSA & DANCE LESSONS

8.5 MARCIA GRIFFITHS  
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8.6 BRAZIL  
DJ ABEL DAMESENO  
HIP HOP, WORLD, FUNK

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**STEEL HOT CAKES**  
Olive Ewe  
Inferno of Joy

FRI July 22 9:30pm, \$8  
**LOVE IS CHEMICALS**  
Mist & Mast  
To The Sea

SAT July 23 9:30pm, \$12  
Adv. tick on sale  
**ALVARUIS B**  
(Alan Bishop of Sun City Girls)  
Forest  
Cave Bears

SUN July 24 9pm, \$7  
**THE COATHANGERS**  
(Atlanta)  
Swann Danger  
The Morning Crazies

MON July 25 6:30pm, \$5  
**PORCHLIGHT OPEN DOOR**

TUE July 26 9pm, \$7  
SF Popfest presents  
**GHOST ANIMAL**  
Kids on a Crime Spree (Slumberland)  
Permanent Collection

WED July 27 9pm, \$7  
Akoholocaust presents  
**SABERTOOTH ZOMBIE**  
Humilitate (Spain)  
Street Justice

Upcoming:  
Eat Skull, Unnatural Helpers, Prizehog,  
Nero Order, Bam Bam, Silent Pictures,  
Matt Adams, Buffalo Killers, Greg  
Ashley Band, Audacity, Fuzz, Midnite  
Snaxxx, AXONN, La Corde, Ggreen, Wet  
Illustrated, Angora Debs

[www.hemlocktavern.com](http://www.hemlocktavern.com)

#### MUSIC LISTINGS



Brooklyn band Bear Hands plays Hotel Utah Wed/27.

PHOTO BY BETSY BLUNDELL

Music listings are compiled by Guardian staff. Since club life is unpredictable, it's a good idea to call ahead or check the venue's website to confirm bookings and hours. Prices are listed when provided to us. Submit items for the listings at [listings@sfbg.com](mailto:listings@sfbg.com). For further information on how to submit items for the listings, see Picks.

#### WEDNESDAY 27

##### ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

**Audacity, Pterodacdues, Hysterians**  
Knockout. 9pm, \$5. Part of Total Trash Fest 3.

**Bear Hands, Birdhand, Thelittlestillnotbigeno**  
ugh Hotel Utah. 8pm, \$8.

**Buttercream Gang, Horde and the Harem,**  
Brownshoe Café Du Nord. 8pm, \$10.

**Guy Davis Biscuits and Blues.** 8 and 10pm, \$20.

**Definite Articles, Dirty Mittens, Il Gato**  
Rickshaw Stop. 8pm, \$10.

**Grass Widow, Cold Showers, Dunes, Petals**  
Thee Parkside. 8pm, \$8.

**Memorials, Rough Waters, Straight Ups**  
Bottom of the Hill. 9pm, \$8.

**My Parade, Get Dead, Axewound** Red Devil Lounge. 9pm, \$6.

**Sabertooth Zombie, Humilitate, Street Justice** Hemlock Tavern. 9pm, \$7.

**Yuck** Independent. 8pm, \$15.

##### JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

**Cat's Corner with Nathan Dias** Savanna Jazz.

9pm, \$10.

**Cosmo Alleycats** Le Colonial, 20 Cosmo, SF; [www.lecolonialsf.com](http://www.lecolonialsf.com). 7pm.

**Dink Dink Dink, Gaucho, Michael Abraham**

Amnesia. 7pm, free.

**Jazz organ party with Graham Connah** Royal Cuckoo, 3202 Mission, SF; [www.royalcuckoo.com](http://www.royalcuckoo.com). 7:30pm, free.

**Ben Marcato and the Mondo Combo** Top of the Mark. 7:30pm, \$10.

**Realistic Orchestra** Yoshi's San Francisco. 8pm, \$15.

**Rob Figliuzzi Trio** 50 Mason Social House, 50 Mason, SF; [www.50masonsocialhouse.com](http://www.50masonsocialhouse.com). 9pm, free.

##### DANCE CLUBS

**Club Shutter** Elbo Room. 10pm, \$5. Goth with DJs Nako, Omar, and Justin.

**Booty Call Q-Bar**, 456 Castro, SF; [www.bootycallwednesdays.com](http://www.bootycallwednesdays.com). 9pm. Juanita Moore hosts this dance party, featuring DJ Robot Hustle.

**Buena Onda** Little Baobab, 3388 19th St, SF; (415) 643-3558. 10pm, free. Funk, swing, rare grooves, and more with Dr. Musco and guests.

**Full-Step!** Tunnel Top. 10pm, free. Hip-hop, reggae, soul, and funk with DJs Kung Fu Chris and Bizz Wonda.

**Mary Go Round, the New Generation** Lookout, 3600 16th St, SF; [www.lookoutsf.com](http://www.lookoutsf.com). 10pm, \$5. Drag with Suppositori Spelling, Mercedez Munro, and Ginger Snap.

**No Room For Squares** Som., 2925 16th St, SF; (415) 558-8521. 6-10pm, free. DJ Afrodite Shake spins jazz for happy hour.



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7/27 Owl Paws, Morning On Fire, Horrorscopes, Unset the Sky 7/28 The Manichean, April Chase, Together We Can Rule the Galaxy, Mary Axe

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#### THURSDAY 28

##### ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

**Billy and Dolly, Karina Denike, Carletta Sue Kay Bottom of the Hill.** 9pm, \$10. Guy Davis Biscuits and Blues. 8 and 10pm, \$20. Eat Skull, Unnatural Helpers, Uzi Rash, Street Eaters Hemlock Tavern. 9pm, \$7. Flakes, Swiss Family Skiers, Poontang Wranglers Knockout. 9:30pm, \$5. Part of Total Trash Fest 3. Frail, Survival Guide, Tigercat Thee Parkside. 9pm, \$8. Skylar Grey Rickshaw Stop. 9pm, \$12. With Popscene DJs. Zach Rogue: Release the Sunbird Café Du Nord. 8pm, \$14.

##### JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

**Gerald Albright** Yoshi's San Francisco. 8pm, \$28. **Cosmo Alleycats** Blondie's, 540 Valencia, SF; (415) 864-2419. 9pm, free. **Dave Parker Quartet** Purple Onion, 140 Columbus, SF; (415) 956-1653. 7:30-10:30pm, free. **Josh Smith Trio** Rose Pistola, 532 Columbus, SF; [www.rosepistola.com](http://www.rosepistola.com). 8pm, free. **Tom Lander and friends** Medjool, 2522 Mission, SF; [www.medjoolsf.com](http://www.medjoolsf.com). 6-9pm, free. **Tom Lattanand, Jon Raskin Quartet** El Valenciano, 1153 Valencia, SF; (415) 826-9561. 9pm, \$5. **Organism** featuring Jim Gunderson and "Tender" Tim Shea Ballyhood Café. 6:30-9pm, free. **Paul Press Band** featuring Kai Eckardt and Peter Horvath Savanna Jazz. 7pm, \$10. Soul jazz party with Chris Siebert Royal Cuckoo, 3202 Mission, SF; [www.royalcuckoo.com](http://www.royalcuckoo.com). 7:30pm, free. **Stompy Jones** Top of the Mark. 7:30pm, \$10. **Swing with Stan** Rite Spot, 2099 Folsom, SF; [www.ritespotcafe.net](http://www.ritespotcafe.net). 9pm.

##### FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

**Greensky Bluegrass** Slim's. 9pm, \$16. **J.L. Stiles** Café Royale, 800 Post, SF; (415) 641-6033. 8pm, free. **YeYe Suarez** Red Poppy Art House. 8pm, \$12-20.

##### DANCE CLUBS

**Afrolicious** Elbo Room. 9:30pm, \$5. Afrobeat, Tropicália, electro, samba, and funk with DJs Pleasuremaker and Señor Oz, plus guest Vibrometers.

**Culture Corner** Koko Cocktails, 1060 Geary, SF; [www.kokococktails.com](http://www.kokococktails.com). 10pm, free. Roots reggae, dub, rocksteady, and classic dancehall with DJ Tomas, Yusuke, Vinnie Esparza, and Basshaka and ILWF.

**Guilty Pleasures** Gestalt, 3159 16th St, SF; (415) 560-0137. 9:30pm, free. DJ TophZilla, Rob Metal, DJ Steff, and Disco-D spin punk, metal, electro-funk, and 80s.

**1984** Mighty. 9pm, \$2. The long-running New Wave and 80s party features video DJs Mark Andrus, Don Lynch, and celebrity guests.

**Supersonic** Ballyhood Café. 10pm, \$5. Fly the friendly skies with SF's Tasty Crew, spinning world beats from the Balkans, Brazil, Colombia, and more.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 94 >

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## MUSIC LISTINGS

### THURS/28 DANCE CLUBS

CONT>>

### FRIDAY 29

#### ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

American Steel, Angry Amputees, Shutdown

Bottom of the Hill. 10pm, \$12.

Bells, Steve Taylor, Alameda, We are the Willows Amnesia. 9pm, \$7.

Black Dahlia Murder, Whitechapel, Darkest Hour, Six Feet Under, Dying Fetus, Powerglove, As Blood Runs Black, Oceano, Hourcast, Fleshgod Apocalypse Fillmore. 3:30pm, \$27.

Lance Canales and the Flood Union Room at Biscuits and Blues. 8:30pm, \$10.

Das Racist, Black Mahal, Ren the Vinyl Archaeologist Mezzanine. 9pm, \$18.

Thomas Dybdahl Brick and Mortar Music Hall. 9pm, \$13.

"A Good Idea Fundraiser" Rickshaw Stop. 8pm, \$30. With California Honeydrops, Con Brio, Neurovoltaic Orchestra, and more.

Heather Combs Band, Ponies, Alden Café Du Nord. 9pm, \$12.

John Lee Hooker Jr. Biscuits and Blues. 8 and 10pm, \$22.

David J, Emily Jane White, Chelsea Set Red Devil Lounge. 9pm, \$12.

Chick Jagger and the Sticky Fingers, Liquid Sky, Jean Genies Rockit Room. 8pm, \$5.

Katdelic with Brian Jordan Boom Boom Room. 9:30pm, \$12.

Maps and Atlases, Princeton, Sister Crayon Slim's. 9pm, \$15.

Mazer Laser Lightshow 50 Mason Social House, 50 Mason, SF; [www.50masonsocialhouse.com](http://www.50masonsocialhouse.com). 9pm, free.

Mean Jeans, Black Jaspers, Guantanamo Baywatch, Teutonic Thee Parkside. 9pm, \$10-30. Part of Total Trash Fest 3.

Prizehog, Nero Order, Ghetto Blaster Hemlock Tavern. 9:30pm, \$7.

Ben Sollee, Thousands Swedish American Hall (upstairs from Café Du Nord). 8pm, \$15. Woods, Fresh and Onlys, Mantles, DJ Britt Govea Independent. 9pm, \$15.

#### JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

Gerald Albright Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 and 10pm, \$35.

Black Market Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark. 9pm, \$10.

Jazz Organ Party with Graham Connah Royal Cuckoo, 3202 Mission, SF; [www.royalcuckoo.com](http://www.royalcuckoo.com). 7:30pm, free.

Linda Kosut Savanna Jazz. 7pm, \$10.

North Beach All Stars Rose Pistola, 532 Columbus, SF; [www.rosepistola.com](http://www.rosepistola.com). 8pm, free.

"Playback → Audiobus: The Genie" Million Fishes, 2501 Bryant, SF; [www.me-di-ate.net](http://www.me-di-ate.net). 8 and 9pm, \$20-200. Live concert on a double-decker bus. Vaughan Johnson Jazz Combo Jack's Club, 2545 24th St., SF; (415) 641-1880. 7pm, free.

#### FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

Family Vibes featuring Sila and Nonstop Bhanga Elbo Room. 10pm, \$10.

Tango No. 9 Red Poppy Art House. 8pm, \$12-20.

#### DANCE CLUBS

Afro Bao Little Baobab, 3388 19th St, SF; (415) 643-3558. 10pm, \$5. Afro and world music with rotating DJs including Stepwise, Steve, Claude, Santero, and Elemba.

Blow Up DNA Lounge. 10pm-2am, \$20. Electro with Jeffrey Paradise and guests.

DJ Dirty Dreams Medjool, 2522 Mission, SF; [www.medjoools.com](http://www.medjoools.com). 10:30pm, \$10.

Mission United Public Works. 9pm. Celebrate the Mission with Afrolicious, Hard French Crew, a fashion show, and more.

Sweater Funk's Three Year Anniversary with Steve Arrington Som. 9pm, \$15. Funk.

Teenage Dance Craze: The Number One Twisting Party in the Universe Knockout. 10pm, \$4. With DJs Russell Quan, dX the Funky Granpaw, and Okieorean Scott.

Vintage Orson, 508 Fourth St, SF; (415) 777-1508. 5:30-11pm, free. DJ TophOne and guest spin jazzy beats for cocktailians.

### SATURDAY 30

#### ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

Bam Bam, Silent Pictures, Schande Hemlock Tavern. 9:30pm, \$7.

Cornmeal, TV Mike and the Scarecrows Café Du Nord. 9:30pm, \$15.

Delta Bombers Knockout. 9pm, \$7. With DJs Badass Daniel Bermudez and dX the Funky Granpaw.

<p>WEDNESDAY 07/20          8PM • \$8 ADV &amp; DOOR          • Jeremy Messersmith          • The Lumineers          • Rin Tin Tiger</p>
<p>THURSDAY 07/21          9PM • \$8 ADV &amp; DOOR          • The Muddy Roses          • Emily Bonn &amp; The Vivants</p>
<p>FRIDAY 07/22          9PM • \$8 ADV &amp; DOOR          • Team Candy          • The AM's          • Riot Earp          • Jess McCavoy</p>
<p>SATURDAY 07/23          9PM • \$8 ADV &amp; DOOR          • The West Of Sons of Doug          • It's For Free Grace (w/ members of The Heavenly States)          • Jennifer Quiroz</p>
<p>SUNDAY 07/24          8PM • \$10 ADV &amp; DOOR          • Keren Bein          • Chris Cotton          • Paige</p>
<p>MONDAY 07/25          7:30PM • \$FREE          Bay Guardian Readers Poll Best Open Mic          • Open mic with Brendan Getzell</p>
<p>TUESDAY 07/26          9PM • \$10 ADV &amp; DOOR          • Eleanor Friedberger          • altman.</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 07/27          8PM • \$8 ADV &amp; DOOR          • Bear Hands          • thelittlestillnotbigEnough</p>
<p><a href="http://twitter.com/hotelutah">twitter.com/hotelutah</a>  <a href="http://facebook.com/hotelutahsaloon">facebook.com/hotelutahsaloon</a>          ADVANCE TIX AT <a href="http://HOTELUTAH.COM">HOTELUTAH.COM</a>          500 4th Street • (415) 548-6300</p>

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<p>★ Thu 7/28          9PM          \$8          THE FRAIL          SURVIVAL GUIDE          (TSUNAMI BOMB, THE ACTION DESIGN)          TIGERCAT</p>
<p>★ Fri 7/29          9PM          \$10          TOTAL TRASH FEST 3!!!          THE RETURN OF STINKY'S PEEPSHOW!          HOME OF THE LARGE &amp; LOVELY GO-GO GIRLS          MEAN JEANS          BLACK JASPER (KING KAHN)          GUANTANAMO BAYWATCH          THE TEUTONICS</p>
<p>★ Sat 7/30          2PM          \$7          TOTAL TRASH FEST 3!!!          AFTERNOON SHOW          SOUTH BAY SURFERS          OKMONIKS          SHRUGGS          NIGHT HOWLS          SLOBSTERS</p>
<p>9PM          \$15          THE SPITS          BLACK JASPER (KING KAHN)          PERSONAL &amp; THE PIZZAS          THERAPISTS          APACHE</p>
<p>★ Sun 7/31          4PM/FREE          TWANG SUNDAY          MANDATORY MERLE</p>
<p>UPCOMING SHOWS:          8/3 - THIS IS HELL, DECODER, ENDWELL, UNTIL YOUR HEART STOPS          8/6 - SAN FRANDELIC SUMMER FEST!          BARE WIRES, THE GROGBS, OUTLAW, NECTARINE PIE, THE LOVE DIMENSION, THE HYPNOTIST COLLECTORS, ROSA GRANDE, MOCCORETO, POOR SOUL, FAMILY MATTERS, THE LOTUS MOONS, THE MCROY HOT SPRINGS, THE TET HOLIDAY, JARED GONZALEZ          8/12 - DEX ROMWEBER DUO, THE FEROCIOUS FEW, TOUCH-ME-NOTS          8/13 - HEARTSONGS, THE STORY SO FAR, THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, SHUTDOWN          8/18 - U.S. BOMBS, THE MEAT SLUTS, JOHNNY MADCAP &amp; THE DISTRACTIONS</p>
<p>ADV TIX THROUGH <a href="http://WWW.THEEPARKSIDE.COM">WWW.THEEPARKSIDE.COM</a>          FOR MORE LISTINGS VISIT  <a href="http://WWW.MYSSPACE.COM/THEEPARKSIDE">WWW.MYSPACE.COM/THEEPARKSIDE</a>          1600 17TH STREET ★ 252-1330</p>

<p>BOTTOM OF THE HILL          info line: (415) 621-4455</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 27 8:30 PM DOORS • \$8 • 21+</p> <p><b>THE MEMORIALS</b>  <b>ROUGH WATERS</b>  <b>THE STRAIGHT UPS</b></p>
<p>THURSDAY 28 8:30 PM DOORS • \$10 • 21+</p> <p><b>BILLY &amp; DOLLY</b>          of THE MONOLITH  <b>KARINA DENIKE</b>  <b>CARLETTA SUE KAY</b></p>
<p>FRIDAY 29 8:30 PM DOORS • \$12 • AA</p> <p><b>AMERICAN STEEL</b>  <b>ANGRY AMPUTEES</b>  <b>SHOTDOWN</b></p>
<p>SATURDAY 30 8:30 PM DOORS • \$12 • AA</p> <p><b>THOSE DARLINS</b>  <b>WHITE ARROWS</b>  <b>MOTOPONY</b></p>
<p>SUNDAY 31 5PM DOORS • \$8 • 21+</p> <p><b>DEBORAH IYALL</b>          of ROMEO VOID  <b>TRUE MARGRIT</b>  <b>KATE KILBANE</b>          &amp; THE CELLAR DOORS</p>
<p>MONDAY 1 8:30 PM DOORS • \$12 • AA</p> <p><b>TALLY HALL</b>  <b>SPEAK CASEY SHEA</b></p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 8/3          8:30 PM          \$12 DOOR          EARLY 6:45PM          \$7ADV,          \$12 DOOR  <b>EARLY AND OFTEN</b>  <b>GOODRIPPLER</b> • <b>BUILD US AIRPLANES</b></p>
<p>THURSDAY 8/4          8:30 PM          \$12 DOOR  <b>HYDROPHONIC</b>          THE AGENT DEADLIES • TBA</p>
<p>FRIDAY 8/5          8:30 PM          \$12 DOOR  <b>POLLUX</b>          CURE FOR GRAVITY • REPEAT AFTER ME</p>
<p>SATURDAY 8/6          8:30 PM          \$12 DOOR  <b>KILL MOI</b> • TINY TELEVISION</p>
<p>SUNDAY 8/7          8:30 PM          \$12 DOOR  <b>BOWLING FOR SOUP</b>          THE POLLYROTS • SUNDERLAND</p>
<p><b>BOTTOM OF THE HILL</b>          1233 17th St in SF • (415) 621-4455          advance tickets: <a href="http://bottomofthehill.com/tickets.html">bottomofthehill.com/tickets.html</a></p>

<p>WED</p> <p><b>ELBO ROOM PRESENTS</b>  <b>CLUB SHUTTER</b>          7 YEAR ANNIVERSARY          WITH DIS          NAKO, OMAR, &amp; JUSTIN</p>
<p>THU</p> <p><b>AFRO-TROP-ELECTRIC-SAMBA-FUNK</b>  <b>AFROLICIOUS</b>          WITH DIS/HOSTS:  <b>PLEASUREMAKER,</b>  <b>SENR OZ</b> PLUS SPECIAL GUEST  <b>VIBROMETERS (L.A.)</b></p>
<p>FRI</p> <p><b>ELBO ROOM PRESENTS</b>  <b>FAMILY VIBES</b>          FEATURING <b>SILA</b>  <b>NON STOP BHANGRA</b></p>
<p>SAT</p> <p><b>ELBO ROOM PRESENTS</b>  <b>JOCK JAMS</b> WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  <b>THE ARABIAN</b>  <b>PRINCE (N.W.A.)</b> AND  <b>DJ THRIFTY LIPS</b> PLUS          RESIDENT DIS NU-JACK &amp; X2SIH</p>
<p>SUN</p> <p><b>DUB MISSION</b> PRESENTS THE BEST          IN DUB, DUBSTEP, ROOTS &amp; DANCEHALL WITH  <b>DJ SEP, LUDICHRIS</b>          AND GUEST ROOMMATE          (BABYLON SYSTEM/HOLLOW POINT/          AWESOME SAUCE/OSC)</p>
<p>MON</p> <p>AN EVENING OF STAND UP COMEDY  <b>ALI MAFI</b>  <b>VLADIMIR KHLYNIN,</b>  <b>JANINE BRITO, NICOLE TURLY,</b>  <b>YURI KAGEN, TJ KELSAL</b></p>
<p>TUE</p> <p>SPIRIT VIBRATIONS PRESENTS  <b>HEARTICAL ROOTS</b>          PLUS <b>BOBBY TENNA</b></p>
<p>WED</p> <p>NUCLEAR WAR NOW! &amp;          LUCIFER'S HAMMER PRESENT  <b>PROCLAMATION (SPAIN),</b>  <b>SANGUIS IMPEREM,</b>  <b>PALE CHALICE</b></p>
<p>UPCOMING:</p> <p>THU 8/4 AFROLICIOUS: FUNK ARK          FRI 8/5 120 MINUTES: NIKE7UP          SAT 8/6 SAT NITE SOUL PARTY          SUN 8/7 EARLY: YOB/DARK CASTLE          LATE: DUB MISSION: DJ SEP, J BOOGIE</p>
<p>ADVANCE TICKETS  <a href="http://WWW.BROWNPAPEARTICKETS.COM">WWW.BROWNPAPEARTICKETS.COM</a></p>
<p>ELBO ROOM IS LOCATED AT 647 VALENCIA NEAR 17TH</p>

## MUSIC LISTINGS

**Fab Four** Yoshi's San Francisco. 8pm, \$35.  
**Fiver Brown and the Good Sinners**  
 50 Mason Social House, 50 Mason, SF; www.50masonsocialhouse.com. 9pm, free.  
**Julia Fordham and Paul Reiser** Bimbo's 365 Club. 9pm, \$28.  
**Hank IV, John Wesley Coleman, Rayon Beach** El Rio. 9pm, \$7.  
**South Bay Surfers, Okmoniks, Shruggs, Night Howls, S'Lobsters** Thee Parkside. 2pm, \$.8.  
 Part of Total Trash Fest 3.  
**Spits, Black Jaspers, Personal and the Pizzas, Therapists, Apache** Thee Parkside. 9pm, \$15.  
 Part of Total Trash Fest 3.  
**Earl Thomas and the Blues Ambassadors** Biscuits and Blues. 8 and 10pm, \$22.  
**Those Darlins, White Arrows, Motopoly** Bottom of the Hill. 10pm, \$12.

## JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

**Daniel Casares Trio** Rose Pistola, 532 Columbus, SF; www.rosepistola.com. 8pm, free.  
**Erik Deutsch, Scott Amendola, John Schifflett** Red Poppy Art House. 9pm, \$12-20.  
**Jazz Organ Party with Graham Connah Royal Cuckoo**, 3202 Mission, SF; www.royalcuckoo.com. 7:30pm, free.  
**"Playback → Audiobus: Christopher Willits"** Everybody Bikes, 1288 15th Ave, SF; www.mediate.net. 8 and 9pm, \$20-200. Live concert on a double-decker bus.  
**Savanna Jazz Trio** Savanna Jazz. 7pm, \$.5.  
**Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers** Club Deluxe, 1511 Haight, SF; www.sfclubdeluxe.com. 10pm, \$10.

## FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

**Toshio Hirano** Rite Spot, 2099 Folsom, SF; www.ritespotcafe.net. 9pm.  
**Tango No. 9 St.** Cyprian's Church, 2097 Turk, SF; www.novalleymusicseries.com. 8pm, \$15.

## DANCE CLUBS

**Afro Bao** Little Baobab, 3388 19th St, SF; (415) 643-3558. 10pm, \$.5. Afro and world music with rotating DJs including Stepwise, Steve, Claude, Santero, and Elemba.  
**Blowoff** Slim's. 10pm, \$15. With DJs Bob Moul and Rich Morel.  
**Bootie's Best Dance Crew** Mezzanine. 9pm, 8-15. Dance crews perform live, plus DJ sets by Adrian and Mysterious D.  
**DeeCee's Soulshakedown** Eighth Anniversary Bash Club Six. 9pm, \$10-15. Reggae, dancehall, and hip-hop with Jan Warrior Shelter Hi-Fi, SAKE 1, ACTIV808, and more.  
**DJ Johnny 5** Medjool, 2522 Mission, SF; www.medjoolsf.com. 10:30pm, \$.10.  
**Ice Hot with MK, Scottie Deep, and Todd Edwards** Public Works. 10pm, \$10. House-garage.  
**Jock Jams** Elbo Room. 10pm, \$.5. Hip-hop with the Arabian Prince and DJ Thrifty Lips, plus residents Nu-Jack and X2SIH.  
**Kafana Balkan** Rickshaw Stop. 9pm, \$10. With Brass Menazeri and DJ Zeljko.  
**New Wave City: 19th Anniversary** DNA Lounge. 9pm, \$.7-12. Eighties dance party with DJs Skip and Shindog, Lowlife, and guests.  
**Roots and Rhythm** Amoeba, 1855 Haight, SF; (415) 831-1200. 2pm, free. With DJ Harry Duncan.

## SUNDAY 31

### ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

**Matt Adams, Ayla Nereo, Trails, Katie Clover** Hemlock Tavern. 9pm, \$.5.  
**Bone Cootes and friends** Rite Spot, 2099 Folsom, SF; www.ritespotcafe.net. 9pm.  
**Fab Four** Yoshi's San Francisco. 7pm, \$.35.  
**Debra Iyall, True Margrit, Kate Kilbane and the Cellar Doors** Bottom of the Hill. 6pm, \$.8.  
**Olin and the Moon** Café Du Nord. 8pm, \$10.  
**Rasputina, Smoke Fairies** Great American Music Hall. 8pm, \$.16.  
**Zoé** Regency Ballroom. 8pm, \$.38.

## JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

**Jennifer Bryce, Josh Workman** Bliss Bar, 4026 24th St, SF; www.blissbarsf.com. 4:30pm, \$10.  
**Jazz organ party with Lavay Smith and Chris Siebert** Royal Cuckoo, 3202 Mission, SF; www.royalcuckoo.com. 7:30pm, free.  
**Tom Landre and friends** Medjool, 2522 Mission, SF; www.medjoolsf.com. 6-9pm, free.  
**Savanna Jazz Jam** Savanna Jazz. 7pm, \$.5.  
**Sunday jazz jam** 50 Mason Social House, 50 Mason, SF; www.50masonsocialhouse.com. 9pm, free.

## FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

**Mandatory Merle** Thee Parkside. 4pm, free.

## DANCE CLUBS

**Batcave** Cat Club. 10pm, \$.5. Death rock, goth, and post-punk with Steeplerot Necromos and c\_death.  
**Dub Mission** Elbo Room. 9pm, \$.6. Dub, roots, and classic dancehall with DJ Sep, Ludichris, and guest Roommate.  
**45 Club** Knockout. 10pm, free. Funky soul with DJs Dirty Dishes, English Steve, and dX the Funky Granpaw.  
**Jock Lookout**, 3600 16th St, SF; www.lookoutsf.com. 3pm, \$.2. Raise money for LGBT sports teams while enjoying DJs and drink specials.  
**La Pachanga** Blue Macaw, 2565 Mission, SF; www.thebluemacawsf.com. 6pm, \$.10. Salsa dance party with live Afro-Cuban salsa bands.



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## MONDAY 1

### ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

**Blues Traveler** Yoshi's San Francisco. 8pm, \$.45.  
**Buffalo Killers, Greg Ashley Band, Strangers Family Band** Hemlock Tavern. 6pm, \$.6.  
**Scream'in' Cyn Cyn and the Pons, Hepa/Titus, Deep Teens, WWE, Shane Shane, Shlitz** Claiborne Stud. 9pm, \$.5.  
**Tally Hall, Speak, Casey Shea** Bottom of the Hill. 9pm, \$.12.  
**Yemen Blues** Independent. 8pm, \$.20.

## DANCE CLUBS

**Death Guild** DNA Lounge. 9:30pm, \$.3-5. Gothic, industrial, and synthpop with Joe Radio, Decay, and Melting Girl.  
**M.O.M.** Madrone Art Bar. 6pm, free. DJs Timoteo Gigante, Gordo Cabeza, and Chris Phleke playing all Motown every Monday.

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WEDS JULY 27	AUDACITY PTEROACODUDES HYSTERIANS 9PM, \$5
THURS JULY 28	THE FLAKES SWISS FAMILY SKIERS POONTANG WRANGLERS 9:30, \$5
FRI JULY 29	TEENAGE DANCE CRAZE Russell Quan, dX The Funky Granpaw and OkieOran Scott 10pm, \$.4
SAT JULY 30	The Delta Bombers High Strung Rockabilly + djs Badass Daniel Bermudez & dX 9pm, \$.7
SUN JULY 31	45 club 10pm, free! 100 yards of funky soul with selectors Dirty Dishes English Steve & dX The Funky Granpaw
MON AUG 1	6pm, free! Krazy for Karaoke Happy Hour belt 'em out, drink 'em down
TUES AUG 2	Texas Thieves 9:30, \$.7 Unko Atama Paper Bags

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**Sausage Party** Rosamunde Sausage Grill, 2832 Mission, SF; (415) 970-9015. 6:30-9:30pm, free.  
**DJ Dandy Dixon** spins vintage rock, R&B, global beats, funk, and disco at this sausage-shack gig.

## TUESDAY 2

### ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

**Audacity, Fuzz** Hemlock Tavern. 9pm, \$.7.  
**Blues Traveler** Yoshi's San Francisco. 8pm, \$.45.  
**Dismantled, Everything Goes Cold, Limnus** DNA Lounge. 8pm, \$.13.  
**Matisyahu, Trevor Hall, John West** Regency Ballroom. 8pm, \$.32.  
**Nerv, Lean, Radio Revolt, DJ Taypoleon** Knockout. 9:30pm, \$.5.  
**One A-Chord, Bobby Tenna** Elbo Room. 9pm, \$.8.  
**Real Estate, Dominant Legs, Melted Toys** Independent. 8pm, \$.15.  
**Scattered Treets, Alternative Routes, Halsted** Rickshaw Stop. 8pm, \$.10. **SFBG**



7/27 WHISKEY WEDNESDAYS WITH THE VANILLA GORILLA & THE BAKED CANADIAN  
\$5 PBR & SHOT ALL NIGHT LONG!!

7/29 PUNKSCHLOCK KARAOKE BASH W/ EILLEEN 9PM FREE

7/30 TRACY OKLAHOMA'S B-DAY WITH T. & A. & SCOTT YOUNG 10PM \$5

7/31 SCHLITZ INDUSTRY NIGHT 9PM-CLOSE! DEALS ALL NIGHT LONG!

8/1 MEATBALL MONDAYS W/ STEPH & DWAYNE 9PM ASS-END HAPPY HOUR 11PM - CLOSE

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8P OMG! KARAOKE NOS  
9P GYPSY MOONLIGHT BAND,  
SWEET CHARIOT, LANA REBEL  
(FOLK / ROCK) \$5

8P INSANITY FUTUR SKULLZ,  
SERPENT CROWN (METAL / HARDCORE) \$8  
9P DB BOOTYKLAP PRESENTS  
MONSOON SEASON (WORLD) NOS

5:30P FREE OYSTERS ON THE HALF SHELL

6P-2A DJ'S CARMEN &  
MIRANDAS FRUIT STAND  
(WORLD, FUNK, R&B, POP) NOS

7P RED HOTS BURLESQUE

3P BEERSPIRIT MAGAZINE RELEASE  
PARTY W/ BLACK COBRA, HOT  
LUNCH, LECHEROUS GAZE,  
HIGHTOWER (PUNK/METAL) \$8

9P HANK IV, JOHN WESLEY  
COLEMAN, RAYON BEACH (ROCK) \$7

12P DANCE CHURCH-DJ BOOTYKLAP  
BRUNCH, BLOODY MARY MENU

3P MATTACHINE DANCE  
PARTY WITH JOHN  
CAMERON MITCHELL AND  
AMBER MARTIN \$5

DOLLAR DAYS \$1 PABST/\$2 WELL  
9P RADICAL VINYL (DJ FUNK/OLDIES/PUNK) NOS

7P RILEY TOLSTEDT, THE HOUGHTS (INDIE) FREE

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FRIDAY JULY 29TH 9PM \$12 (ROCK/POP)

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SATURDAY JULY 30TH 9:30PM \$12/\$15 (ROCK)

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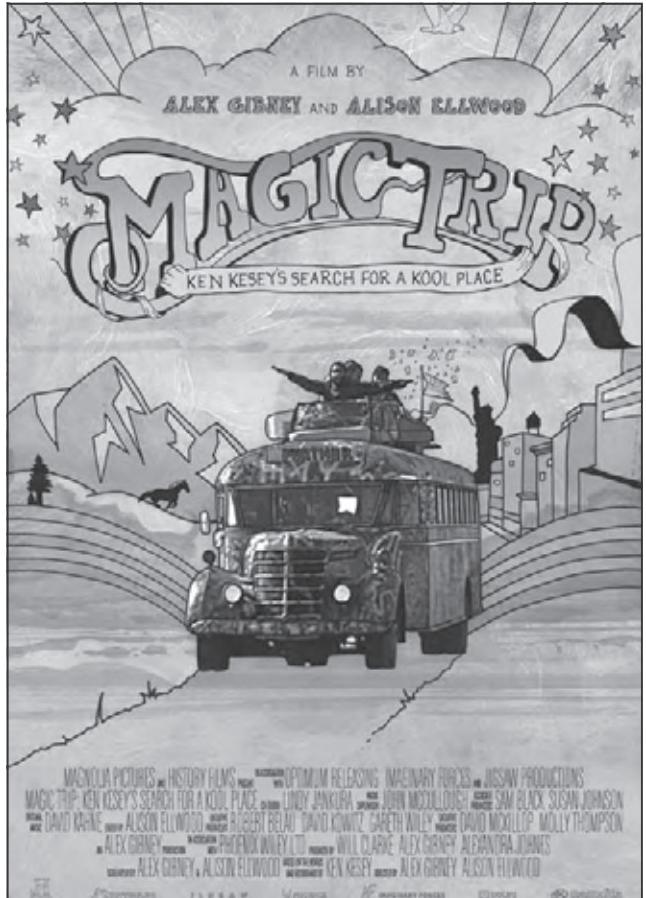


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## FILM LISTINGS



Inner-city London kids battle aliens in *Attack the Block*, out Fri/29.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCREEN GEMS

Film listings are edited by Cheryl Eddy. Reviewers are Kimberly Chun, Michelle Devereaux, Peter Galvin, Max Goldberg, Dennis Harvey, Johnny Ray Huston, Louis Peitzman, Lynn Rapoport, Ben Richardson, and Matt Sussman. For rep house showtimes, see Rep Clock. Due to early Best of the Bay issue deadlines, theater information was incomplete at presstime.

### SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The 31st San Francisco Jewish Film Festival runs through August 8 at the Castro, 429 Castro, SF; Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, 1119 Fourth St., San Rafael; Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3200 California, SF; Oshman Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto; and Roda Theatre at Berkeley Rep, 2025 Addison, Berk. For tickets (most shows \$12) and a full schedule, visit [www.sffjf.org](http://www.sffjf.org).

### OPENING

**Another Earth** After serving a prison sentence for a youthful drunk-driving incident that killed two passengers in another car, Rhoda (Brit Marling) emerges no longer a blithe party girl but a haunted loner who prefers working as a high school janitor. Obsessed by her crime, she starts spying on the man it had left widowed and childless, a onetime composer (William Mapother) who like her has retreated into a solitary shell of depression. She finds a way to integrate herself (without revealing her identity) into his threadbare current existence, the two of them bonding over fascination with a newly discovered planet that appears the exact duplicate of Earth — complete with the possibility of our doubles living a parallel existence there. You can take Mike Cahill's modestly scaled U.S. indie feature (cowritten with actor Marling) as a familiar drama about grief and repentance with a novel gloss of sci-fi, or as a sci-fi story with unusual attention to character emotions and almost no need of fantasy FX. Either way, it's earnest, well-acted and interesting if not quite memorable; as has been noted elsewhere, the material could have fit just as effectively into a half-hour *Twilight Zone* episode. (1:32) (Harvey)

» **Attack the Block** The Goonies go to a South London projects, with more gore, guts, and gumption? With good reason, writer, director, and Edgar Wright/Simon Pegg cohort Joe Cornish's own project, *Attack the Block*, has been getting raves at fests for its effortless, energetic originality, discernible through its thick, glottal stop-chomping, Jafaican-draped local brogue. The question posed, ever so entertainingly: what happens when you pit the toughest kids on the block against a ferocious pack of outer-space critters — not quite out to serve man but rather sever him limb from limb? We start out seeing this gang of at-risk, risk-taking youth through the peepers of a vulnerable female mugging victim and neighbor, Sam (Jodie Whittaker) — they seem as scary as any alien invader and she wants to bring down the full force of the law on them. But the pack, led by Moses (John Boyega, who charismatically scowls like a young 50 Cent), has more pressing matters at hand: a mysterious creature has come crashing down from out of the sky, and naturally, being nasty terrors, they kill it, bringing down a intergalactic shit storm of trouble. Their favorite refuge: the top-floor weed room overseen by Ron (Pegg sidekick Nick Frost), where they attempt to suss out why they've become the prime prey for wolfish aliens out for blood.

Throw in chills, bike chases, a resourceful use of elevators and dumpsters, and an epic, eerie dubstep theme by Basement Jaxx, and you have a very fun horror-thriller that declines to preach but manages to bring home a message reminiscent of *Night of the Living Dead* (1968). Consider this a whole-hearted, double-fisted antidote to the fearful vigilanism of films like 2009's *Harry Brown*. (1:28) (Chun)

**Cameraman: The Life and Work of Jack Cardiff** See review at [www.sfbg.com](http://www.sfbg.com). (1:30) *Balboa*.

**Cowboys and Aliens** Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford star in Jon Favreau's sci-fi Western. (runtime not available)

**Crazy, Stupid, Love** Keep the poster's allusion to 1967's *The Graduate* to one side: there aren't many revelations about midlife crises in this cleverly penned yet strangely flat ensemble rom-com, awkwardly pitched at almost every demographic at the cineplex. There's the middle-aged romance that's withered at the vine: nice but boring family man Cal (Steve Carell) finds himself at a hopeless loss when wife and onetime teenage sweetheart Emily (Julianne Moore) tells him she wants a divorce and she's slept with a coworker (Kevin Bacon). He ends up waxing pathetic at a slick nightclub where he catches the eye of the well-dressed, spray-tanned smoothie Jacob (Ryan Gosling), who appears to have taken his ladies man stance from the Clooney playbook. It's manly makeover time: *GQ* meets *Pretty Woman* (1990)! Cut to Cal and Emily's babysitter Jessica (Analeigh Tipton), who is crushing out on Cal, while the separated couple's tween Robbie (Jonah Bobo) hangs on for Jessica. Somehow Josh Groban worms his way into the mix as the dullard suitor of Hannah (Emma Stone) in a hanging chad of a storyline that must somehow be resolved in this mad, mad, mad, mad — actually, the problem with *Crazy Stupid Love* is that it isn't *really* that mad or crazy. It tries far too hard to please everybody in the theater to its detriment, reminding the viewer of a tidy, episodic TV series (albeit a quality effort) like *Modern Family* more than an actual film. Likewise I yearned for a way to fast-forward through the too-cute Jessica-Robbie scenes in order to get back to the sleazy-smart, punchy complexity of Gosling, playing adeptly off both Carell and Stone. (1:58) (Chun)

**Gunless** Action comedy about an American cowboy flummoxed by the ways of the Canadian frontier. (1:29)

**A Little Help** Jenna Fischer stars as a frazzled single mom in this indie comedy. (1:48)

» **The Names of Love** Arthur (Jacques Gamblin) is a 40-ish scientist being interviewed about the threat of a bird flu epidemic when his radio broadcast is interrupted by 20-something Baya (Sara Forestier), who denounces him on-air as a "fascist" for frightening the public. But then, Baya tends to use that label rather indiscriminately, applying it to anyone who might conceivably have views to the right of the dial — and Arthur is in fact a solid liberal, which means she can bed him for love. As opposed to the many, many other men she beds as a self-described "political whore," seeking out conservative types in order to seduce them and hopefully induce an ideological shift by whispering sweet nothings ("Not all Arabs are thieves," etc.) as they orgasm. Raised by parents whose emotions are so tightly wound his mother won't acknowledge her parents were Jews killed at Auschwitz, Arthur has a hard time adjusting to a relationship with a lover who is faithful emotionally but sees promiscuity as her propagandic gift to

CONTINUES ON PAGE 100 >

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## FILM LISTINGS

### OPENING

CONT. >>

the world. Meanwhile Baya's largely Algerian family treats garrulous political argument as the very air they breathe. This odd-couple story written by Baya Kasmi and director Michel Leclerc deals with serious issues in both humorous and respectful fashion, making for one of the more novel, delightful and depthed French romantic comedies in a long time. Added plus: lots of antic gratuitous nudity. (1:42) *Smith Rafael*. (Harvey)

» **NEDs** There is bleak, and there is Scottish bleak. Weighed down by class and roundly ignored by apathetic institutions, the non-educated delinquent is the star of writer-director Peter Mullan's wrenching but delightful *NEDs* (2010), a dark and curiously fanciful tale of youth in the housing estates of 1970s Glasgow. John McGill (Conor McCarron) is a bright and talented student with high hopes for a future at university until abuse by peers and teachers alike leads him down the well worn path of drinking, fighting, and gang life with the Young Car-Ds, his older brother Benny's (Joe Szula) crew. The quiet John can't escape the tide of history that society has set him upon and soon he's joined the fray, abandoning his academic promise for a life of Doc Martens and concealed blades. As J. McGill so eloquently explains: "Youse want a NED? I'll gie youse a fuckin NED!" (2:03) *Balboa*. (Cooper Berkemeyer)

**The Smurfs in 3D** You're welcome, world! Love, America. (1:43)

**The Tree** A dead man talks to his bereaved family through a fig tree in French director Julie Bertuccelli's *The Tree*. In spite of this heavy-handed premise, the film never does what you expect it to. Amid the stark, savage countryside of Australia, Dawn (Charlotte Gainsbourg) and her four kids try to live life without their husband and father. But this proves an especially thorny endeavor since the tree in question seems to be a stubborn, invasive version of him. As in Lars von Trier's *Antichrist* (2009), Gainsbourg embodies the role of grieving woman in another overflowing open performance. Thankfully for us, this time

she stays away from the scissors. The sweeping cinematography by Nigel Black is lovely to look at, and the young Morgana Davies is inspiring as Dawn's 8-year-old daughter, Simone. Unlike that other magical realist *Tree* movie this summer, Bertuccelli's film can at least be credited for being entirely unpretentious and kind of sweet. (1:40) (Ryan Lattanzio)

» **World on a Wire** The words "Rainer Werner Fassbinder" and "science fiction film" are enough to get certain film buffs salivating, but the Euro-trashy interior décor is almost reason enough to see this restored print of the New German Cinema master's cyber thriller. Originally a two-part TV miniseries, *World on a Wire* is set in an alternate present (then 1973) in which everything seems to be made of concrete, mirror, Lucite, or orange plastic. When the inventor of a supercomputer responsible for generating an artificial world mysteriously disappears, his handsome predecessor must fight against his corporate bosses to find out what really happened, and in the process, stumbles upon a far more shattering secret about the nature of reality itself. Riffing off the understated cool of Godard's *Alphaville* (1965) while beating 1999's *The Matrix* to the punch by some 25 years, *World on a Wire* is a stylistically singular entry in Fassbinder's prolific filmography. (3:32) *Roxie*. (Sussman)

### ONGOING

**Bad Teacher** (1:29)

**Beats, Rhymes & Life** (1:38)

» **Beginners**

(1:44)

**A Better Life** (1:38)

» **Bill Cunningham New York**

(1:24)

**Bride Flight** (2:10)

» **Bridesmaids**

(2:04)

**Buck** (1:28) *Smith Rafael*.

**Captain America: The First Avenger** OK, Marvel.

I could get behind 2008's *Iron Man* (last year's *Iron Man 2*, not so much), but after *Thor* and now *Captain America*, I'm starting to get cynical about this multi-year build-up to the full-on *Avengers*

movie, due in May 2012. Can even a superhero-stuffed movie directed by Joss Whedon live up to all this hype? There's plenty of time to ponder, and maybe worry a little, with Captain America's backstory-explaining picture now in theaters. The cheerfully generic Chris Evans stars as the skinny, World War II-era Brooklyn kid who morphs into a supersoldier, thanks to the tinkering of a scientist (Stanley Tucci) and an inventor (Dominic Cooper as Howard Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man's dad). The original plan for the musclebound shield-bearer (fighting Nazis, natch) gets waylaid a bit when the newly famous Captain America becomes a government PR prop; it's abandoned entirely when a worse-than-Hitler foe, in the guise of power-obsessed Red Skull (Hugo Weaving), threatens the world. Directed by Spielberg cohort Joe Johnston, *Captain America* is gee-whiz enjoyable enough, but it's very nearly the same movie as *Thor*, which no amount of Tommy Lee Jones (as a sarcastic army colonel) wisecracks can conceal. And here's an anti-spoiler: there's no post-credits surprise in this one, so you can bolt as soon as they roll. (2:09) (*Eddy*)

**Cars 2** (1:52)

» **Cave of Forgotten Dreams**

(1:35)

**Empire of Silver** (1:52)

**Friends With Benefits** If you see only one romantic comedy this summer about a sex-sans-pair-bonding pact between a girl and a guy saddled with intimacy issues — well, chances are, if you tend to see movies with premises like this, you probably already saw *No Strings Attached*. In which case, poor unlucky *Friends with Benefits* may be filed away in your brain as that other movie about fuckbuddies, the one in which Ashton Kutcher is played by Justin Timberlake and Natalie Portman (in a slightly eerie cosmic echo of last year's *Black Swan*) is played by Mila Kunis. But if you see two such movies this summer, and admit it, you probably might, you'll likely agree that *FWB* kicks *NSA*'s booty call, particularly in the areas of scriptwriting ingenuity, pacing, and the casting subcategory of basic chemistry between romantic leads, with points possibly taken off for shark-jumping use of flash mobs and the fact that the maddeningly sticky song "Closing Time" will now be with you from closing credits 'til doomsday. This is not a searing, psychologically nuanced portrayal of two young people's struggles to grapple with modern-day sexual mores and their own crippling pathologies — rather, the pair's emotional baggage mostly seems to be stuffed with packing peanuts, and scenes in which they catalog their sexual proclivities in a humorously businesslike, gently raunchy fashion reveal them to be heartily adept at the art of communication. But such moments keep us entertained as the film, salted with light jabs at the genre's worn-down touchstones yet utterly complicit, depicts the inevitable stages of a non-relationship relationship. (1:44) (Rapoport)

**The Hangover Part II** (1:42)

» **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part**

**2** (2:10)

**Horrible Bosses** (1:33)

**Larry Crowne** (1:39)

**Life, Above All** (1:46)

**Midnight in Paris** (1:34)

» **Page One: Inside the New York Times** (1:28)

*Smith Rafael*.

**Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides** (2:05)

» **Project Nim**

(1:33)

**Rapt**

(2:05)

» **Road to Nowhere** (2:02)

*Roxie, Smith Rafael*.

**Snow Flower and the Secret Fan**

(1:40)

**Super 8**

(1:52)

» **Tabloid**

(1:28)

**Terri**

(1:45)

» **13 Assassins**

(2:06)

**Transformers: Dark of the Moon** (2:34)

**The Tree of Life** (2:18) *Smith Rafael*.

» **The Trip** (1:52)

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**Winnie the Pooh** (1:09) **SFBG**

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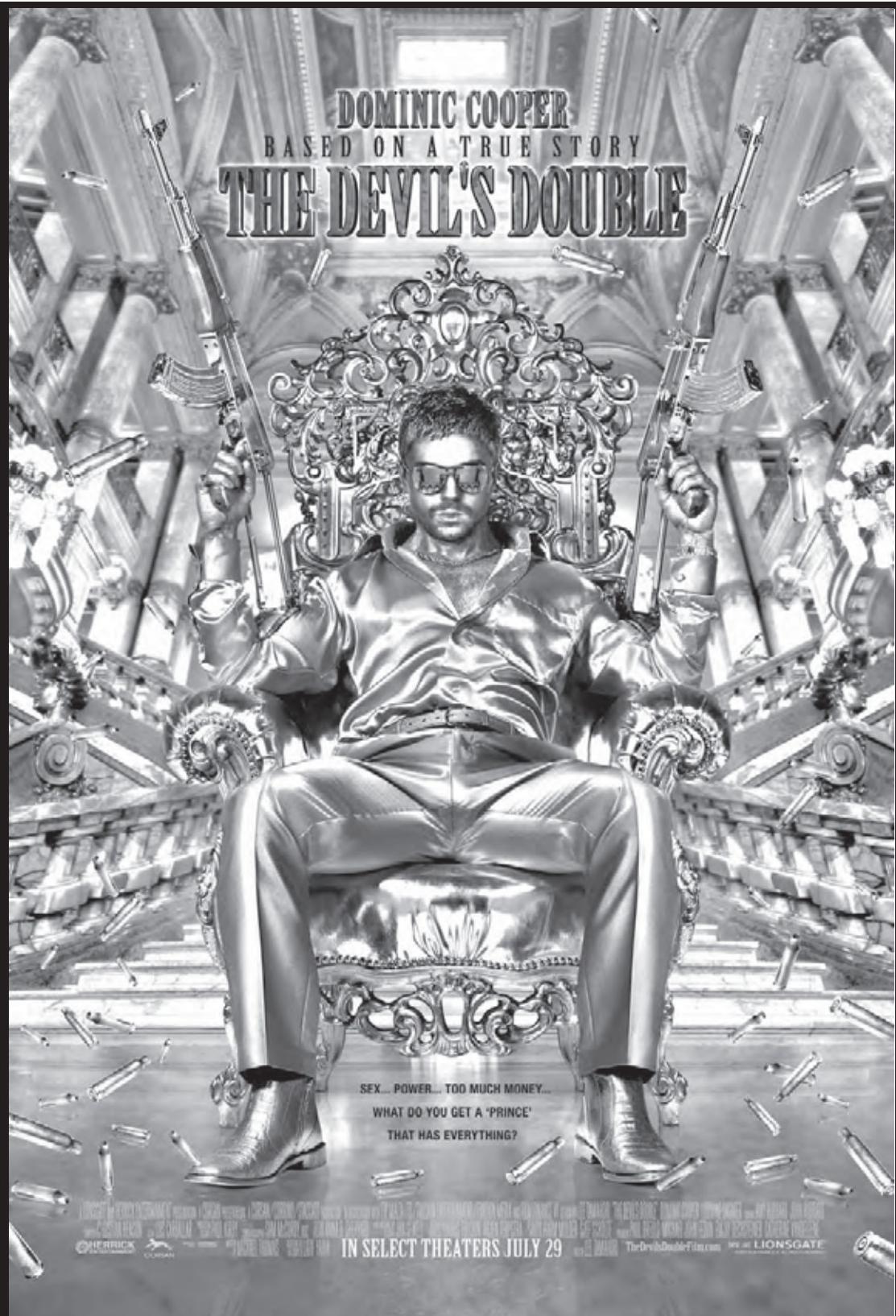
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**Please note:** Passes received through this promotion do not guarantee you a seat at the theatre. Seating is on a first come, first served basis, except for members of the reviewing press. Theatre is overbooked to ensure a full house. No admittance once screening has begun. All federal, state and local regulations apply. A recipient of tickets assumes any and all risks related to use of ticket, and accepts any restrictions required by ticket provider. Lionsgate, The San Francisco Bay Guardian, and their affiliates accept no responsibility or liability in connection with any loss or accident incurred in connection with use of a prize. Tickets cannot be exchanged, transferred or redeemed for cash, in whole or in part. We are not responsible if, for any reason, recipient is unable to use his/her ticket in whole or in part. All federal and local taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Void where prohibited by law. No purchase necessary. Participating sponsors, their employees and family members and their agencies are not eligible. NO PHONE CALLS!

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**MAX STEINER**  
*Tribute*

Friday, July 29  
MILDRED PIERCE 3:00, 7:00  
+ THE LETTER 5:00, 9:05

Saturday, July 30  
CASABLANCA 2:30, 7:00  
+ TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE 4:30, 8:55

Sunday, July 31  
GONE WITH THE WIND 2:00, 7:00

Monday, August 1  
NOW, VOYAGER 2:40, 7:00  
+ DARK VICTORY 4:55, 9:10

Tuesday, August 2  
WHITE HEAT 2:50, 7:00  
+ ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES 5:00, 9:05

Wednesday, August 3  
THE BIG SLEEP 2:50, 7:00  
+ KEY LARGO 4:55, 9:05

Thursday, August 4  
KING KONG 2:40, 7:00  
THE SEARCHERS 4:35, 9:00

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# CONCERT UPDATE

## WOODS

FRIDAY, JULY 29 INDEPENDENT

WED 7/27	THU 7/28	FRI 7/29	SAT 7/30	SUN 7/31	MON 8/1	TUE 8/2	WED 8/3
THE DEFINITE ARTICLES DIRTY MITTENS IL GATO Rickshaw Stop	THE COOL KIDS New Parish	SLIGHTLY STOOPID REBELUTION SHWAYZE CISCO ADLER Greek Theatre	POLLO DE MAR the Riptide	ZOE Regency Ballroom	YEMEN BLUES Independent	MATISYAHU TREVOR HALL JOHN WEST Regency Ballroom	THIS IS HELL DECODER ENDWELL UNTIL YOUR HEART STOP Thee Parkside
SABERTOOTH ZOMBIE HUMILATE STREET JUSTICE Hemlock	EAT SKULL UNNATURAL HELPERS UZI RASH STREET EATERS Hemlock	HOT BUTTERED RUM New Parish	THE SPLITS BLACK JASPER'S PERSONAL AND THE PIZZAS THERAPISTS APACHE Thee Parkside	OLIN & THE MOON Cafe du Nord	TALLY HALL SPEAK CASEY SHEA Bottom of the Hill	SCATTERED TREES THE ALTERNATE ROUTES HALSTED Rickshaw Stop	PROCLAMATION SANGUIS IMPEREM PALE CHALICE Elbo Room
THE MEMORIALS ROUGH WATERS THE STRAIGHT UPS Bottom of the Hill	INSANITY FUTUR SKULLZ SERPENT CROWN El Rio	KID ROCK W/ SHERYL CROW Shoreline Amphitheatre	BLACK COBRA HOT LUNCH LECHEROUS GAZE HIGHTOWER El Rio	THE CELLAR DOORS Bottom of the Hill	MATT ADAMS AYLA NERO TRAILS KATIE CLOVER Hemlock	BUFFALO KILLERS GREG ASHLEY BAND STRANGERS FAMILY BAND Hemlock	REAL ESTATE DOMINANT LEGS MELTED TOYS Independent
MY PARADE THE WHITE BARONS AXWOUND Red Devil Lounge	BILLY & DOLLY KARINA DENIKE CARLETTA SUE KAY Bottom of the Hill	MAPS & ATLASES SISTER CRAYON Slim's	A PERFECT CIRCLE Greek Theatre	KATIE CLOVER Hemlock	BRANDI CARLILE El Rey Theatre	AUDACITY FUZZ Hemlock	EARLY AND OFTEN GOODRIDLDER BUILD US AIRPLANES Bottom of the Hill

## rep clock

Schedules are for Wed/27-Tues/2 except where noted. Director and year are given when available. Double features are marked with a •. All times are p.m. unless otherwise specified.

**BALBOA** 3620 Balboa, SF; www.balboamovies.com. \$7.50-20. Make Believe (Twel, 2011), Wed-Thurs, call for times. Cameraman: The Life and Work of Jack Cardiff (McCall, 2010), July 29-Aug 4, call for times. From Britain with Love: Toast (Clarkson, 2011), Fri, 9; Sun, 2; Tues, 7; A Boy Called Dad (Percival, 2009), Sat, 7 and Tues, 4:30; Africa United (Gardner-Paterson, 2010), Fri, 4:30 and Mon, 2; In Our Name (Welsh, 2010), Fri, 2 and Sun, 9; Neds (Mullan, 2010), Sat, 9 and Tues, 2; Third Star (Dalton, 2010), Sun, 7 and Mon, 9. The Red Shoes (Powell and Pressburger, 1948), Sat, 4:30; Mon, 9.

**CASTRO** 429 Castro, SF; (415) 621-6120, www.castrotheatre.com. \$7.50-13. San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, Wed-Thurs. Check www.sffjff.org for complete schedule and ticket info. “Legendary Composer Max Steiner (1888-1971):” •Mildred Pierce (Curtiz, 1945), Fri, 3, 7, and The Letter (Wyler, 1940), Fri, 5, 9:05; •Casablanca (Curtiz, 1942), Sat, 2:30, 7, and Treasure of the Sierra Madre (Huston, 1948), Sat, 4:30, 8:55; •Gone With the Wind (Fleming, 1939), Sun, 2, 7; •Now, Voyager (Rapper, 1942), Mon, 2:40, 7, and Dark Victory (Goulding, 1939), Mon, 4:55, 9:10; •White Heat (Walsh, 1949), Tues, 2:50, 7, and Angels With Dirty Faces (Curtiz, 1938), Tues, 5, 9:05.

**CHRISTOPHER B. SMITH RAFAEL FILM CENTER** 1118 Fourth St, San Rafael; (415) 454-1222, www.cafilm.org. \$10.25. Buck (Meehl, 2011), call for dates and times. Page One (Rossi, 2011), call for dates and times. Road to Nowhere (Hellman, 2010), call for dates and times. The Tree of Life (Malick, 2011), call for dates and times. The Trip (Winterbottom, 2010), call for dates and times. The Names of Love (Leclerc, 2010), July 29-Aug 4, call for times. Finding Joe (Solomon, 2011), Sun, 7.

**EXPLORATORIUM** McBean Theatre, 3601 Lyon, SF; www.exploratorium.edu. Free. “Marker XC: Three Times Thirty:” •The Sixth Side of the Pentagon (Marker and Reichenbach, 1967), The Embassy (Marker, 1973), and Be Seeing You (Marret and Marker, 1968), Thurs, 7:30.

**FILM NIGHT IN THE PARK** This week: Creek Park, 451 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo; (415) 272-2756, www.filmnight.org. Donations accepted. Dirty Dancing (Ardolino, 1987), Fri, 8; Casablanca (Curtiz, 1942), Sat, 8.

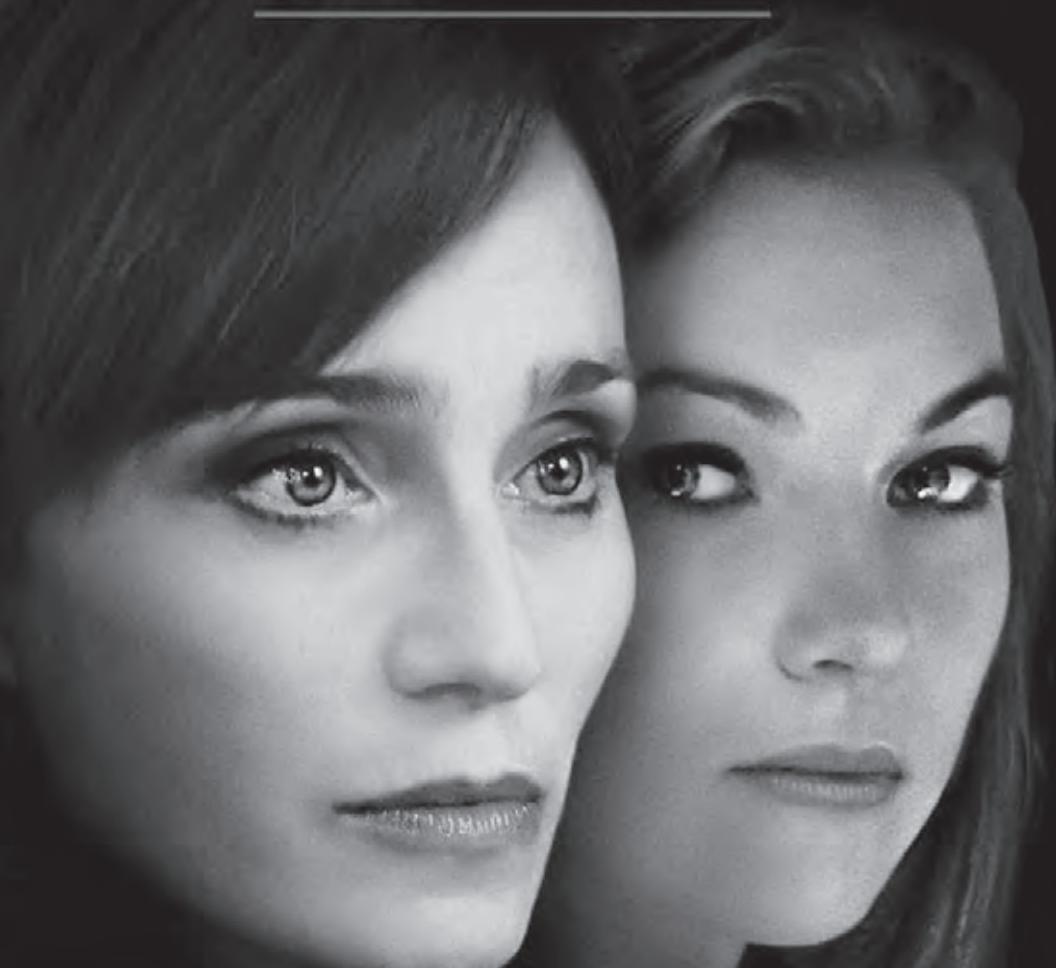
**FOUR STAR** 2200 Clement, SF; www.lntsfc.com. \$10. “Asian Movie Madness” •Lady Chatterley in Tokyo (Fujii, 1977), and Mariko, Thurs, call for times.

**PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE** 2575 Bancroft, Berk; (510) 642-5249, www.bampfa.berkeley.edu. \$5.90-9.50. “Bernardo Bertolucci: In Search of Mystery:” The Path of Oil (1967), Wed, 7; Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man (1981), Fri, 7; The Last Emperor (1987), Sun, 7. “Hands Up: Essential Skolimowski:” Walkover (1966), Thurs, 7; Barrier (1966), Sun, 5. “Going South: American Noir in Mexico:” Touch of Evil (Welles, 1958), Fri, 9:15. “Japanese Divas:” Throne of Blood (Kurosawa, 1957), Sat, 6:30; The Face of Another (Teshigahara, 1966), Sat, 8:35.

**ROXIE** 3117 and 3125 16th St, SF; (415) 863-1087, www.roxie.com. \$5-9.75. Cockfighter (Hellman, 1974), Wed, 9:20. Happy (Belic, 2011), Wed-Thurs, 7, 8:45. Road to Nowhere (Hellman, 2011), Thurs, 7, 9:20. Two-Lane Blacktop (Hellman, 1971), Wed, 7. World on a Wire (Fassbinder, 1973), July 29-Aug 4, 7 (also Sat-Sun, noon; part one only, Thurs/28, 4:30; part two only, Fri/29, 4:30).

**VORTEX ROOM** 1082 Howard, SF; www.myspace.com/thevortexroom. \$5 donation. “The United States of Vortex:” •Linda Lovelace for President (1975), Thurs, 9, and Joe (1970), Thurs, 11. **SFBG**

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KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS

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WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF GISELE CASADESUS AND AIDAN QUINN IN THE ROLE OF MELISSA CLAWFISH

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# IN THEATERS AUGUST 5

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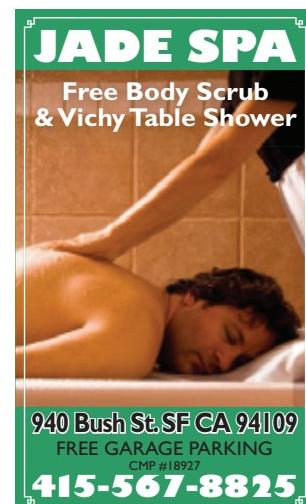
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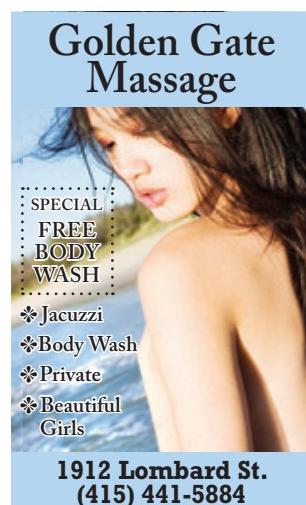
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## psychic dream astrology

JULY 27- AUG. 2

**ARIES**

**March 21-April 19**

Create a life that is not only solid, but also self-appropriate, Aries. You are in the throes of major change and if you force some old agenda onto the new you, you'll find the outcome lacking. Get present before you think about your future, and make sure that happiness fits into the framework.

**TAURUS**

**April 20-May 20**

Bring high energy to your life's cares this week because a passive approach will only keep your confusions in the dark. You are capable of achieving greatness, but without a creative vision you won't get very far. Pursue what you most want instead of what you're willing to settle for.

**GEMINI**

**May 21-June 21**

It's a delicate balance between feeling a heavy heart in a healthy way and indulging it in a way that makes things worse. If you feel bad this week it's okay — just make sure to take care of your practical needs too. It may not feel this way, but things are on their way up, so get ready, Gem.

**CANCER**

**June 22-July 22**

If you find yourself in the middle of an identity crisis, you are exactly where you need to be, Cancer. This is the right time to shine light in the dark corners of your inner world and get to your psychic dust bunnies. It's better to deal with your crap than to wait for it to deal with you.

**LEO**

**July 23-Aug. 22**

Defensive actions can do more damage than you imagine this week. Instead

By Jessica Lanyadoo

Jessica Lanyadoo has been a psychic dreamer for 16 years. Check out her Web site at [www.lovelanyadoo.com](http://www.lovelanyadoo.com) or contact her for an astrology or intuitive reading at (415) 336-8354 or [dreamyastrology@gmail.com](mailto:dreamyastrology@gmail.com).

for the good stuff, and strong healthy boundaries for the rest. Put out what you wish to receive by being kind and generous this week.

**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**

When you feel worried and start obsessing on things, it's not the right time to make decisions, Sag. Instead of plotting how to change your name, dye your hair, and skip town, try to calm yourself down first. Some good old-fashioned talking things out with folks will work wonders this week.

**CAPRICORN**

**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**

Don't be in such a rush to get results, Cappy, or you may not like what you get. Take a minute to take stock of what you're doing and why to reaffirm that you're on the right path. If you find that you've strayed off course, simply realign your actions with your intentions.

**AQUARIUS**

**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**

There's no fixing the past, pal. You've got to make peace with the life you're in before you can figure out how to improve it, so take a minute to reflect on how you got where you are. You're on the verge of advancing in new directions — make sure they're the right ones.

**PISCES**

**Feb. 19-March 20**

This is an excellent week to think about wrapping things up, Pisces. You are able to see things as they truly are, which can allow you to deal with them more directly and completely. Bring about favorable conclusions by freeing yourself from unnecessary bonds. **SFBG**

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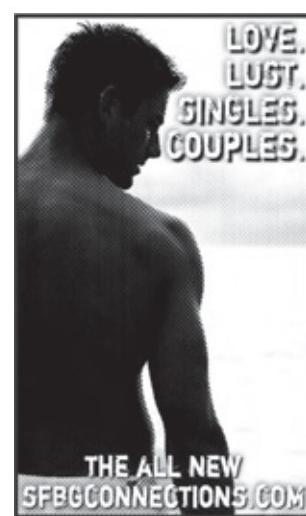
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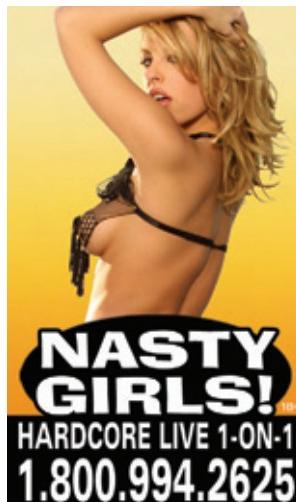
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